

Why Risk It?

RISK REDUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS & REVIEWS

The Y in Central Maryland



April 2024

Risk Spotlight: Preventing Peer to Peer Abuse

While April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, our focus on child abuse prevention is a priority every day at the Y. In fact, with so many kids participating in youth-serving organizations across the nation, peer abuse is on the rise. However, there are steps that we can take to make sure this doesn't happen in our programs.

First, we need to understand where and when peer to peer abuse occurs.

- **Where does peer abuse typically happen?**
Any area where there are blind spots, obstructions, or places for youth to gain privacy is a location where peer abuse may go undetected. Examples include: bathrooms, locker rooms, playgrounds, bus seats, and cabins.
- **When is peer abuse most likely to occur?**
Any time when unstructured and unsupervised activities take place. As such, supervision is the key to preventing any sexual abuse, but especially peer abuse. When you know what youth are doing, and where they are at all times, the opportunity for peer abuse is greatly reduced.

To learn more about specific supervision strategies and more detailed information on preventing peer to peer abuse, go to this [Micro Learning](#).

Risk Reduction Recommendations

Behavior Management

Behavior management is more than responding to inappropriate behavior—it's about creating an environment that minimizes these behaviors and provides a safe and predictable space for kids. This new micro-learning explores three key strategies for managing behaviors—building relationships, setting clear expectations, and creating structure.

Take this [Micro Learning](#) for guidance and examples for implementing strategies for behavior management.

(information courtesy of The Redwoods Group)



Risk Raves and Reviews

We'd like to recognize these associates who have recently demonstrated heroic feats in assisting others. Thank you!

Ahmad Farid - Parkville Y
Izzie Powell - Arnold Y
Giancarlo Alma - Arnold Y
Geneva Prosper - Pasadena Y
Liz Cawthorne - Arnold Y
Tawanda Ford - Randallstown Y
Laila Hartley - Weinberg Y
Heidi Hunter - Orokawa Y
Lindsay Meyers - Towson Y Preschool
Kelly Kurtz - Ring Factory BASE
Mary Lou Johnson - Windsor Farm BASE
Langston Smith - Randallstown Y
Gianna Cintron - Ward Y
Angie Smith - Weinberg Y
Lacie Wenzler - Catonsville Y
Loretta Colville - Meade Vill Head Start
Seirra Evans - Dancel Y
Briana Davis - Dancel Y
Tynee Ridgley - Towson Y Preschool
Robyn Friend - Towson Y Preschool
Shannon Kowal - Parkville Y
Lisa Sessa - Ward Y
Valerie Warner-Collins - Ward Y
Imani Ward - Catonsville Y
Patti Kaughlman - Arnold Y
Debbie Fowble - Parkville Y
Brendan Maddox - Dancel Y
Val McDougale - Annap Grdns Head Start
Sam Hale - Orokawa Y
Savannah Kirby - Druid Hill Y

Risk Reminders

Remember . . . every Y associate is required to take Child Abuse Prevention training annually. For questions or details, contact trainer@ymaryland.org.