

Why Risk It?

RISK REDUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS & REVIEWS

The Y in Central Maryland



May 2024

Risk Spotlight: Identifying Red-Flag Behaviors

We all play a critical role in preventing sexual abuse by recognizing red-flag behaviors. Here is a quick refresher identifying the most common red-flag behaviors seen in youth-serving organizations across the nation. You should never:

1. Engage in any unwanted or unwelcome touch that is used to desensitize youth and begin a more physical relationship. Examples include tickling, lap-sitting, or face-to-face hugs.
2. Discuss explicit topics, or topics that are just meant for adults, including conversations that lower a youth's inhibitions.
3. Have private, one-on-one, alone time with a child where you are not observable by others.
4. Focus attention on one child, to make them feel special, build trust and favor, and test their ability to keep a secret.
5. Interact with youth outside of Y programming. For example, babysitting or talking to them via social media or via text.

If you witness any of these behaviors, then respond immediately by interrupting the interaction and ensuring the child is safe. Then report the behavior to a supervisor immediately. Remember - it is everyone's responsibility to keep our participants safe!

(information courtesy of The Redwoods Group)

Risk Reduction Recommendations

Managing Downtime

With camp season just around the corner, it's important to remember that in any youth program, there will be times when children will have downtime. During those times, it is critical that associates are still engaging and supervising the children. Our friends at Redwoods have created a short video that highlights different supervision strategies associates can implement during downtime.



We encourage you to view this [video](#) to learn about some important strategies to keep the children in your programs safe.

(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!

Erin Buffington - Ward Y
Mike Negusse - Arnold Y
MaryLou Johnson - Windsor Farm BASE
Naod Negusse - Arnold Y
Corina Gould - EFRC Head Start
Carol Beecher - Parkville Y
Maddie O'Connell - Orokawa Y
William Belk - Orokawa Y
Noah VonWachter - Catonsville Y
Lisa Egry - Catonsville Y
Nakisha Roberts - Druid Hill Y
Ali Hassan - Arnold Y
Caua Fusaro De Melo - Arnold Y
Suhan Khan - Jessup Elem BASE
Dakara Bon - Ward Y
Olivia Mitchell - Arnold Y
Danita Davis - Kenwood Head Start
Brendan Maddox - Dancel Y
Kurt White - Druid Hill Y
Fernetta Easley - Druid Hill Y
Justin Hunt - Druid Hill Y
Muhammad Ramamni - Dancel Y
Na'Jai Hamilton - Orokawa Y
Sierra Kaluzienski - Arnold Y
Sean Bajadek - Arnold Y
Karlee Hargrove - Arnold Y
Taylor Smith - Arnold Y
Owen Davis - Orokawa Y
Chase Chester - Catonsville Y
Josh Tollen - Parkville Y
Anthony Thompson - Dancel Y
E McCreary - Randallstown Head Start
Tyler Stitcher - Arnold Y
Kim Benson - Ward Y

Risk Reminders

Questions about mitigating risk? Email riskmanagement@ymaryland.org.