

Why Risk It?

RISK REDUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS & REVIEWS

The Y in Central Maryland



April 2025

Spotlight: Child Abuse Prevention

April is designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in the United States - a time to raise awareness and promote the prevention of child abuse and neglect, with communities encouraged to work together to support families and children.

While many events supporting the prevention of child abuse occur in April, we maintain our focus on prevention **year-round**. ALL Y associates are required to take Child Abuse Prevention Training prior to their first shift and annually thereafter - ensuring all of us recognize the symptoms of abuse, understand the policies which must be implemented for prevention, and know how to respond and report suspicions or allegations accordingly.

Furthermore, we encourage our associates to consistently practice the foundational habits of child sexual abuse prevention: **Know.**

See. Respond.

- **Know:** Knowing about child sexual abuse can help us better understand what to look for and how to keep it from happening in the first place.
- **See:** When we know the signs of abuse, we can intervene on behalf of children.
- **Respond:** If you suspect abuse, it's important to respond and report.

If you have questions about child abuse prevention at the Y, please email myadavis@ymaryland.org.

Preparing for a Safe and Fun Summer

Summer is calling! In a few months, our Y will be buzzing with youth enjoying camps and other programs. To keep the fun rolling and support everyone's safety, it's essential that our associates understand how to monitor our areas and activities appropriately - particularly those involving: bathrooms, locker rooms, swimming, playgrounds, field trips, transportation, hikes, overnight camp, and free play. Below are some best practices in preventing abuse:

- Confirm ALL associates have completed Child Abuse Prevention Training **prior** to their first shift and annually thereafter
- Implement and monitor active supervision standards
- Ensure associates are never one-on-one with a participant
- Be certain that associates are positioned in a way in which they can see and hear all participants at all times

Refer to our [Y Child Abuse Prevention Plan](#) and our [Field Trip & Transportation Policies Manual](#).

Peer-to-Peer Abuse

The Associated Press recently released an article on peer-to-peer abuse across the country. The article states, "Contrary to public perception ... student sexual assaults by peers were far more common than those by teachers. For every adult-on-child sexual attack reported on school property, there were seven assaults by students."

Fortunately, peer-to-peer abuse is preventable through monitoring and supervision. At the Y, our policies include prevention practices to mitigate the risk of abuse, including:

- Training on the risks of peer-to-peer sexual activity, how it occurs, and how to report incidents or allegations.
- Establishing supervision policies for high-risk activities - such as transition times, free play, bathroom and locker room activities, transportation, etc.
- Implementing walk-throughs and quality checks to monitor facilities. Peer-to-peer abuse typically occurs when youths find privacy - often found in stairwells, blind spots around corners, under tables, in closed rooms, etc.
- Monitoring compliance with supervision policies. Supervisors need to make sure that associates follow our active supervision and monitoring procedures.

By consistently implementing the prevention practices listed above, we can all be active participants in ensuring the safety of our youth.

(Courtesy of Praesidium)