



THE Y WORKING FOR SAFETY

Talk to your child about his or her experiences in the Y programs, school, sports, and other activities.

Drop in on your child's programs.

Trust your instincts. Don't wait to tell us if something seems "strange." Speak up!

Watch for warning signs of abuse:

- Unexplainable bruising or other physical markings
- Disturbed sleeping or eating patterns
- Abrupt changes in behavior—anxiety, clinging, aggressiveness, withdrawal, depression
- Fear of certain person or place
- Discomfort with physical contact
- A child who abuses other children

Listen and watch for signs of your child receiving special attention that other children or teens are not receiving, including favors, treats, gifts, rides, increasing affection or time alone, particularly outside the activities of school, child care, or other activities.

Every once in a while, ask your child these questions:

- Is anyone scaring or threatening you?
- Is anyone asking you to keep secrets?
- Has anyone said anything to you that made you feel bad?
- Is anyone touching you in a way that you don't like?

Encourage your child to tell you or another trusted adult if anything happens to him or her.

Read our staff Code of Conduct. If someone breaks it, let us know immediately.



CHILD SAFE RESOURCES

If you have any questions or concerns regarding a Y staff person or program, make a confidential call to the Child Safe Hotline at 1-877-NJ-ABUSE (1-877-652-2873) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Or any Law Enforcement Agency at 911

You are not required to provide proof. Anyone who makes a good faith report on reasonable grounds is immune from prosecution.

Community Resources

To Report Child Abuse:

911

To Prevent Child Abuse:

1-800-CHILDREN

To Report Child Abuse:

1-877-NJABUSE (652-2873)

National Child Abuse Hotline:

1-800-4-A-CHILD (22-4453)

NJ Sex Offender Information:

Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office
(732) 745-3300

RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA

357 New Brunswick Avenue
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
732.442.3632 www.rbaymca.org



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA



OUR COMMITMENT

Creating A Child Safe Environment



THE Y AND YOUTH

The RARITAN BAY AREA YMCA has long served thousands of children and families. Each organization specializes in providing an array educational and social programs that strengthen family living in Middlesex County.

These programs take place:

357 New Brunswick Avenue
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
732.442.3632

www.rbaymca.org

Parents place their trust in the Y to help their children thrive. Our core values—caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility—are part of everything we do. Because of this, we place great value on creating the most child-safe environment possible.



THE Y'S CHILD SAFE POLICY

OUR STAFF

The Raritan Bay Area YMCA has more than 150 staff members and volunteers working with youth in the many programs we offer.

OUR SCREENING

To keep children in our programs safe we take the following steps in our intensive screening of employees and volunteers:

- Detailed application forms
- Comprehensive interview process
- Reference checks
- Criminal background record checks and fingerprinting
- Internet Searches

OUR TRAINING

Employees complete an extensive child abuse prevention training program. Supervisors and managers complete additional training to further promote a child-safe environment. All staff members are mandated to report any suspected child abuse.

OUR POLICIES

Staff is prohibited from working one-on-one with youth outside of the Y (i.e. babysitting). Policies exist to ensure staff and volunteers are not alone with a child.

Child abusers can be parents, caretakers, friends, neighbors, or anyone who comes in contact with your child— even other youth. It takes everyone's help to stop the cycle of abuse.



INFORMATION ABOUT ABUSE

The Y wants all children to be safe. Unfortunately, child abuse does exist, taking many forms.

Emotional – Threatening a child or using words that can hurt a child's feelings and self esteem; withholding love and support from a child

Physical – Causing injuries to a child on purpose, such as bruises, burns, scars, or broken bones

Sexual – Having sexual contact in any form with a child, including exposing, fondling, intercourse, pornography, or internet solicitation

Neglect – Not providing children with enough food, clothing, shelter, medical care, hygiene, or supervision

IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE...

- ⇒ If you think your child is physically injured, seek out appropriate medical attention.
- ⇒ If you see signs of distress, withdrawal, or acting out, consider counseling for your child.
- ⇒ Talk to your Y Program Director for assistance.
- ⇒ Call Child Protective Services (CPS) or the police to report any abuse.