

WORKING TOGETHER FOR SAFETY

TALK to your child about his or her experiences in 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.

ASK your child these questions every once in a while:

- 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 is non-compliant, let us know immediately. It is located on our website and at every location.

RESOURCES

CHILD SAFE RESOURCE

Child Safe Hotline

1-800-792-8610

To make a confidential call if you have any questions or concerns regarding a Y staff person or program

PREVENTION

Stewards of Children:

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training

Learn how to recognize, prevent, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Learn more at www.d2l.org or contact Susan Morton for the next scheduled training.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Division of Child Protection and Permanency

1-800-792-8610

To report child abuse

Department Of Human Services

1-877-677-9845

To report health concerns or facility issues

WESTFIELD AREA Y

Susan Morton

908-654-8460 or smorton@westfieldynj.org

Vice President, Operations Child Care, Camp, Teen Services and Darkness to Light Trainer/Facilitator

Clark Lagemann

908-233-2700 or clagemann@westfieldynj.org

Senior Vice President, Operations

WESTFIELD AREA Y

MAIN FACILITY · 220 CLARK ST., WESTFIELD, NJ 07090

908-233-2700 · www.westfieldynj.org

ROBERT & VIRGINIA BAUER FAMILY BRANCH

422 E. BROAD ST., WESTFIELD · x423

PRESCHOOL AT THE CRANFORD COMMUNITY CENTER

220 WALNUT AVE., CRANFORD · x423

CHILD CARE CENTER

170 ELM ST., WESTFIELD · 908-654-8460

GARWOOD FAMILY CENTER Y

500 EAST ST., GARWOOD · 908-301-1616

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICES

111 FERRIS PL., WESTFIELD · 908-223-8820



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

OUR COMMITMENT Creating a Child Safe Environment



WESTFIELD AREA Y

Serving Cranford, Garwood, Mountainside and Westfield since 1923.



WESTFIELD AREA Y AND YOUTH

Parents place their trust in the Y to help their children thrive. Our core values of 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 Westfield Area Y has approximately 5,000 youth members.

FIRST STEPS TO SAFEY: CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES

OUR STAFF

The Westfield Area Y has more than 200 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/or fingerprinting
- Internet searches
- Social security traces
- Sex offender records checks

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. All staff members receive and sign an actionable code of conduct.

OUR POLICIES

Staff members are prohibited from working one-on-one with youth outside of the Y (e.g., babysitting). Policies exist to ensure staff and volunteers are not alone with a child. Family members are encouraged to visit unannounced and observe any program in which their child participates. Parents are also encouraged to express concerns to program directors. All interactions between adults and children are designed to be observable.



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 the Division of Child Protection and Permanency or the police to report any abuse.