

Keeping Children Safe and Secure Leader's Guide

General Objectives of This Training

This DVD training project is designed to aid your group in the following ways:

- To protect children that your group members may have contact with while overseas.
- To protect your group members from false allegations, which ultimately protects ministry resources for accomplishing God's task for the nations.
- To better acquaint everyone with the problem of child sexual abuse.

Suggested Training Location and Seating Arrangements

This DVD training can be viewed by individuals or used with groups.

If used with a group, consider watching the DVD at your church (if possible) as it may have fewer distractions (ringing phones, etc.) than a home setting. Also, select a small room free from glare to promote focus on the DVD and interaction among viewers.

You can adopt a classroom-style seating arrangement in order to watch the DVD. Place two or more rows of chairs, angled slightly toward each other so that viewers can see each other. Also, position a lectern for yourself a few feet away from the television set.

Alternatively, seat team members in a horseshoe pattern or around a large conference room-type table to facilitate their taking notes.

BEFORE watching this DVD:

SAY: All of us have television sets in our homes and whether you like to watch police dramas or the news, it doesn't take long to hear a story about child abuse. It can be physical or sexual. For the purpose of this training, we're focusing on the second problem because we don't want to do anything to hurt a child or a ministry.

SAY: As we watch this DVD, feel free to take notes or jot down your answers to the questions on this handout. We'll have a review time afterward.

DISTRIBUTE copies of the "Keeping Children Safe and Secure Individual Learner's Guide" to your group (available for download and print out from the DVD).

AFTER watching this DVD:

SAY: Before we look at some questions in your Learner's Guide, did anyone have any comments? Or would anyone like to take a quick break?

Answers to Learner's Guide Questions

1. Is spanking a form of physical abuse?

While spanking is an intentional action (non-accidental), it clearly constitutes physical abuse when it results in physical injury. **(See complete definition next page.)** Also, it is clearly inappropriate to spank someone else's child.

2. What are examples of sexual abuse that don't involve touch?

Verbal comments, obscene phone calls, exhibitionism or allowing a child to witness sexual activity or pornography. **(See complete definition next page.)**

3. When might a victim of child sexual abuse not know his/her abuser?

On the Internet.

4. Nearly 70 percent of all reported sexual assaults occur to children younger than

a) 10 b) 12 c) 16 d) 18 Answer: d

5. Incidents of child sexual abuse peak between these ages:

a) 1 and 5 b) 4 and 6 c) 8 and 12 d) 13 and 16 e) 17 and 18 Answer: c

6. True or False. Most child sex offenders have one victim.

False. Between one and nine victims.

7. Why would churches attract a child sex offender?

Situational child molesters look for situations in which they can find potential victims, and children frequently go to church. Also, preferential child molesters may look for a certain type of child — one with a particular hair or eye color or build.

8. What is the main thing to be aware of in a child you suspect may be a victim?

A sudden shift in the child's behavior.

9. How should you respond if a child tells you that he/she doesn't like a worker?

Ask specific questions, but avoid questions that lead the conversation.

10. When isolation is high, risk is High.

11. When accountability is low, risk is High.

12. When the imbalance of power and control between adults and children is low, risk is Low.

13. What is the "Two or More" rule?

There should always be at least two adults working with children at all times.

14. What are some examples of inappropriate interaction between adults and children?

Tickling, wrestling with or kissing a child who is not your own. Also, sitting a child who is 4 years of age or older on your lap, taking children on isolated outings, using bad language, telling dirty jokes or showing inappropriate pictures.

15. True or False. Abusers tend to move to inappropriate touching as soon as possible.

False. They build trust first.

16. When child abuse doesn't involve an adult, who might be the abusers?
Teenagers experimenting sexually or former abuse victims.

17. What are some effective ways to prevent abuse between children?
Provide adult supervision and permit their interaction in public.

18. Why is worker supervision so important?
It lowers isolation, increases accountability and lowers or "corrects" the imbalance in power and control between adults and children.

19. How should you talk to a child who has reported sexual abuse to you?
Take the child to the side in a public area. Ask a few open-ended questions (Who? Where? When? What happened next?) to help you know how to proceed in your reporting. Reassure the child that he/she is not in trouble. Listen. Keep your feelings under control. Use the child's vocabulary. Let the child know what you will do to help. Be encouraging. Say, "I know this was difficult, but you've done the right thing."

20. What responses should you avoid with a child who has reported sexual abuse to you?
Denial, minimizing the nature of the abuse or shifting blame onto the victim. Also, promising the child that you will keep what he/she has told you a secret, asking leading questions (which may put ideas into a child's head or confuse the situation), pressing for details beyond what the child is willing to share, making comments about the alleged perpetrator and disclosing what the child shared with people who cannot help.

DEFINITIONS: *(If you prefer not to read these aloud, make copies of this page for your group.)*

Physical abuse of a child (anyone under age 18) includes, but is not limited to the following: any action that causes or threatens to cause a non-accidental physical injury to a child; placing a child in a situation where the child is likely to be injured; neglecting or refusing to provide adequate food, shelter, emotional nurturing or health care to a child; or failing to provide adequate supervision in relation to the child's age or development level.

Sexual abuse of a child includes, but is not limited to the following: committing, allowing to be committed or threatening any sexual act upon a child, including, without limitation, fondling of breasts or genitalia in or outside of the clothing, masturbation, oral-genital contact, digital penetration, vaginal intercourse or anal intercourse; any action undertaken with the intent to arouse or satisfy the sexual desire of any individual; indecent exposure in the presence of a child; allowing a child to view sexually explicit or pornographic material; allowing a child to be used in creating any sexually explicit or pornographic material; or allowing a child to witness a sexual act.

SAY: Now, let's take a look at a few situations in which we could find ourselves.

DISTRIBUTE the one-page Small Group Discussion Guide (from the DVD) that's appropriate for the students (either short-term workers or field personnel) in your group.

ASK your group to respond to the three scenarios. It might be best to divide your group into three subgroups, giving each subgroup time (approx. five minutes) to formulate a response to one of the scenarios. (Suggested responses are available for download and print out from the DVD.)