

Suggested Responses to Short-term Worker Discussion Guide

In the Panama scenario, it's possible that the 9-year-old child is watching the movie because it was simply what was on television at the time rather than the child's intentional choice. Interest the child in another activity the two of you can play together (video game, board game, etc.) or suggest that the both of you see what else is on television and watch it together.

In the London scenario, you may want to pause in the hallway just to make sure of what you are seeing. If the embrace is sustained for what seems an unusual length of time, you might want to casually enter the doorway and ask if everything is all right. Make sure to observe the facial expressions on both the adult as well as the child. If either seems startled, that could be a red flag. Regardless of your status as a well-known speaker, you must put the protection of the child first. Err on the side of caution and report what you observed to the camp director.

If the child is wiping away tears, get down on the child's level and ask him/her what is wrong; be sure to get the story from the child, rather than the adult only. Watch for any signs of defensiveness on the part of the adult, i.e., answering for the child or making comments to try to remove you from the situation. If you see or sense defensiveness, rather than supportiveness, report your observations to the camp director.

In the Africa scenario, it's fairly obvious that David is aware of the nude photos his son Ryan has on the wall of the studio they share. However, make sure that David also knows about the nude photo of the daughter of the field-based couple holding hands with an African child. Explain that while it's not too unusual to see African children who are scantily clad or unclothed, it is unusual and inappropriate to see a child belonging to field personnel that way. Further, explain to David the potential harm to his or his son's future ministry if anyone else were to see the same photos, especially any other members of your short-term worker group. Also, do mention what you have observed to your team leader or other supervisor.

For more information to help keep children safe and secure, visit these Web sites:

store.churchlawtodaystore.com/reducingrisk.html (helps churches screen/train staff)
stopitnow.org/resourceguide/rg01_csaprev.html (public health approaches/intervention)
kidshelp.com.au/template/standard.aspx?s=166 (protection measures children can use)
thesafeside.com/downloads/ (resources for families, teachers and safety presenters)
cfchildren.org/events/tatrain/ (teaches children and prospective trainers)

If you suspect child sexual abuse, how should you report it?

Report only to those who truly can or should help. Short-term workers should report to your team leader, leadership on the field or to the hotline (1-866-292-0181).