

Recognizing Behaviors

Watch for Grooming Behaviors

- Become sensitive to the types of behaviors that may lead to child sexual abuse
- Notice behaviors of both adults and children in your care
- Do not discount the importance of these signs – they are never innocent and should be intervened

Supervise Everyone

- No one in the organization should be exempt from supervision
- There is no room for exceptions because someone is too important or too valuable to expose

Avoid False Allegations

- The accused will look for every opportunity to show innocence
- Avoid jumping to conclusions
- Be aware, be vigilant, and be confident

Avoid Unmonitored or Unsupervised Situations

- Make certain there is never an opportunity for child sexual abuse to occur
- Deny the opportunity for a predator to gain access and privacy
- All staffers and volunteers are supervised at all times

Watch for Inappropriate Physical Contact

- Intimacy between adults and children is never to be permitted – report it if you see it
- Monitor sleeping arrangements for remote activities
- Never allow corporal punishment

Monitor the Children

- Watch for children being the mystery recipient of gifts or cash
- Watch for other signs someone is grooming a child
- The most obvious sign is a disclosure from a victim that someone is sexually abusing them
- Reports from the child they intend to run away from home – may indicate abuse at home
- Discussing or attempting suicide
- Watch for regressive behaviors which are not age appropriate, such as thumb sucking, bedwetting, or fear of the dark
- Any unusual change in bathing or grooming practices

Child Sexual Abuse Training Worksheet

Lesson 6

- Avoids undressing or wears extra layers of clothing – could mean hiding the signs of abuse on their body
- Signs of stress:
 - sudden drop in grades or interest in school
 - disinterest in childhood activities which were interesting shortly before
 - becoming interested in sexual matters that are not age appropriate
 - promiscuity or sexually seductive behaviors
- No desire to spend time with a particular adult or older peer,
- Nightmares, night terrors, or be unable to sleep comfortably
- Exhibit unusual aggression
- If an older child or adolescent suddenly has a new cell phone and maintains strict secrecy over the types of messages he or she receives – could be they are hiding communications from a sexual offender