



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

## Preventing Child Abuse YMCA OF THE SUNCOAST

The YMCA of the Suncoast takes the prevention of child abuse very seriously, and understands that child abuse and inappropriate contact of children must be managed in a proactive manner.

### **GROOMING: WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?**

Most abusers use a subtle and gradual process known as “grooming” children and families to gain access to, and control of, children. Grooming is typically done slowly to lure and manipulate children into abuse.

On the surface, grooming can appear quite innocent and may even give the perception that the individual works well with children.

Everyone must become familiar with and watchful for common grooming techniques, such as:

- Befriending the youngster and their family to slowly gain trust
- Giving gifts, money, trips and/or permitting special favors for the youth
- Encouraging harmless secrets, laying the foundation for future secrets
- Taking pictures or videos of the child
- Communicating with the child excessively; texting, emailing or calling
- Making alcohol/drugs available to the youth
- Desensitizing the child through nonsexual touching, “accidental” touching of privates and/or walking in on bathroom or dressing time.
- Playing body games with children like tickling, back rubs or wrestling
- Introducing pornography to initiate sexual interest or normalize the behavior



**KNOW**



**SEE**



**RESPOND**

**YMCA OF THE SUNCOAST**  
2469 Enterprise Rd.  
Clearwater, FL 33763  
ymcasuncoast.org  
727.467.9622



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# STEP UP, SPEAK OUT

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We value the trust you have in our organization and are committed to creating a safe, caring environment for children to dream, learn, grow and work toward achieving their fullest potential in spirit, mind and body.

### REPORTING: WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?

There are three instances in which we need to react to sexual abuse: a child **discloses** abuse to us, we **discover** sexual abuse ourselves, or we have a reason to **suspect** it. When any of these three things happen, be prepared to react. Speaking out can be scary. What if you don't know all the details? What if you aren't 100% sure? Report. You do not need proof that abuse is occurring to make a report, only reasonable suspicion. Reporting child sexual abuse is key in preventing and intervening in abuse.



KNOW



SEE



RESPOND

### DISCLOSURE

A child has chosen you as the person he/she trusts enough to tell. They've taken a huge risk in doing so. Give them attention, compassion and belief. **What do I need to report?** Provide the child's name, where they live, the information they relayed to you and signs of abuse you've seen. If possible, tell what access the alleged offender has to the child, where they are, and behaviors you've noticed them exhibiting.

### DISCOVERY

Discovery of sexual abuse means you've witnessed a sexually abusive act by an adult or youth with a child, or know by another way that abuse has taken place. **What do I need to report?** Provide the child's name, where they live, where you are, where the child is and where the offender is (if known). Tell what the child has said to you if applicable and what inappropriate interactions you have seen.

### SUSPICION

Suspicion means you've seen signs in a child, or witnessed boundary violations by adults or older youth. Offenders are rarely caught in the act, but they're often seen breaking the rules and/or pressing boundaries. If there is a pattern of boundary violations, you now have reasonable suspicion. Make a report.

## 1-800-96-ABUSE

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