



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR KIDS

Is anyone touching
you in a way that you
don't like?

Has anyone said
anything to you that
made you feel bad?

Is anyone asking you
to keep secrets?

Is anyone scaring or
threatening you?



CONTACT

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VP of Youth Development
South Shore YMCA
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SAFE KIDS

The South Shore YMCA
Commitment to
Protecting Children



» SOUTH SHORE YMCA
ssymca.org/safekids

SAFEKIDS.07.2026



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

We all have important roles to play in ensuring bright futures for the children in our lives, and we invite you to join us in our commitment to strengthen communities and protect children. You can count on the South Shore YMCA to partner with you and your family in committing to keeping all children safe through education, prevention, and awareness.

As a leading organization in Youth Development, the South Shore YMCA is committed to educating our community on how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child abuse. At the Y, we are dedicated to providing a child-safe and child-centered environment where all kids have safe spaces to explore their imagination, learn lifelong skills, and grow.

All adults are responsible for keeping kids safe, and we must do our part by being engaged leaders in a call to action.

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The South Shore YMCA is proud to be accredited by Praesidium for 2026–2029! Praesidium Accreditation® publicly demonstrates to our community that the South Shore YMCA has achieved the highest industry standards in abuse prevention.

OUR CHILD PROTECTION STEPS



- **STAFF SCREENING:** All Y staff members are prescreened with national criminal background and reference checks
- **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION TRAINING:** All Y staff are trained in child abuse prevention as part of our onboarding process, with continuous training and certification throughout the year.
- **CAREFUL SUPERVISION AND MONITORING** of all Y programs and in all program sites.
- **EMPHASIS ON OUR OBLIGATION AS MANDATORY REPORTERS** of suspected child abuse.
- **PROGRAM DESIGN** that prevents staff and volunteers from being alone with a child/youth where they cannot be observed by others.
- **POLICIES LIMITING STAFF CONTACT** with children/youth outside of the South Shore YMCA programs or where one-adult / one-child situations could occur.

PARENTS' CHILD PROTECTION STEPS

- **P > PAY ATTENTION** to changes in behavior, such as sleeping or eating patterns, fear of a person or place, and discomfort with physical contact.
- **R > REPORT CONCERNS** about staff or a volunteer. Call Kristine Swan, VP of Youth Development at 781-826-7910.
- **O > OBSERVE** your child/youth's programs by dropping in and asking questions.
- **T > TALK TO THEM** about their experiences in the South Shore Y programs, school, sports, church, and other activities.
- **E > EDUCATE YOURSELF!** Learn more about protecting your child at ssymca.org/safekids
- **C > CONTROL** your child's isolated interactions and watch for signs they are receiving extra attention, treats, gifts, rides, etc.
- **T > TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS!** Tell us if something seems strange.

