

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



March 2013

Stewards of Children® Participants...Never Stop Learning!

You are receiving this email because you have attended a Stewards of Children training with Chaucie's Place. We want to continue to provide helpful information, tips, stories in the news, trainings, and other valuable resources to expand your awareness and strengthen your role as a steward of children. Without ongoing education and dialogue in our community, it is impossible to move forward and end this epidemic.

Eight Questions Parents Should Ask When Selecting a Summer Camp, Daycare or Program for Their Children

During our Stewards of Children trainings we talk a lot about policies and procedures for organizations (and families) to protect the children and staff. This month we are sharing a list of questions to consider asking when selecting a summer camp, daycare or program for your child to be a part of. We hope this helps to guide you when making those decisions.

1. What is the organization's policy on child sexual abuse prevention?

To be sure your child is safe, make sure any organization you are considering has a comprehensive approach to preventing any form of abuse. Do they have policies in place that help protect your children from sexual abuse?

2. How does the organization screen staff?

Ask how they screen employees and volunteers, and be wary if they rely solely on local criminal background checks. Criminal background checks can give a false sense of security. Because the vast majority of child sexual abuse goes unreported, the vast majority of people who have sexually abused children will pass a criminal background check. People who have sexually abused children will pass a criminal background check unless the abuse has been reported, prosecuted as a sexual crime and the person has been found guilty.

It's recommended that organizations have a Federal background check, State background check and possibly a background check through the Department of Child Services.

3. Do they check references?

Reference checks provide important opportunities to learn more about an applicant's

experience. When asking for references, organizations should require applicants to include non-family members and should watch for gaps in references and ask about them. For example, if an applicant spent three years working at a child care facility but doesn't list anyone from the facility as a reference, this should be discussed to understand why.

4. What is their policy about interactions between their staff and youth?

Organizations should have a policy regarding staff and youth interactions. Does the policy include examples of positive interactions or is it so focused on what *not* to do that your child could miss out on appropriate, encouraging interaction? Are you comfortable with how they define appropriate and inappropriate interactions?

5. How do they monitor interactions between adults and children?

Policies won't do any good unless the leaders of the organization are observing interactions between adults and children and taking action as needed. Organizations who take seriously the safety of children understand the importance of both observation and taking action. What procedures does the organization have for monitoring interactions? What is the procedure for bringing up concerns about interactions between adults or older youth and children? Who is designated to handle these concerns?

6. Have they considered safety in the physical layout of the facility?

Safety in the physical layout can easily be overlooked. Are all areas of the space visible to others or could someone bring a child into a corner or closet without being seen by others? Do doors have windows or are they kept open so anyone walking by can see how staff are interacting with children? When you visit the space, think about how easy or difficult it will be for staff to monitor interactions. Would it be easy for someone from outside the program to gain access? Can anyone walk in or do you need to sign in?

7. How do they handle situations of inappropriate behavior or allegations of sexual abuse?

You want to be certain that the organization has policies and procedures in place to deal with breaches in policies and concerning behaviors. Organizations with policies are better equipped to handle concerns than those that do not. Keep in mind Indiana laws require any suspicion of abuse or neglect to be reported to the Department of Child Services Hotline and/or local law enforcement.

8. Do the staff and volunteers receive training about child sexual abuse? If so, what is the training?

Training is another way that organizations send a message to staff and volunteers they are serious about creating a safer environment for children. Training should include information on how to identify signs of abuse and when it is appropriate to make a report. Training should be ongoing and refresher courses available.

We hope this is helpful when selecting programs and activities for your children. If an organization is offended by your questions then it is most likely not the safest environment for your child. If an organization truly puts the safety of children first then they should have no problem answering your questions.

Information made available through



Stop It Now!

Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children

Please forward to your friends, family and colleagues!

Stewards of Children Training Schedule:

March 13, 2013

5:30pm - 8:00pm

Westfield City Services Building

Main Level Media Room

2607 E 171st St.

Westfield, IN 46074

\$15 per person

To register:

<http://chauciesplace.org/stewards-of-children-registration>

April 17, 2013

5:30pm - 8:00pm

White River Elementary School

LGI Room

19000 Cumberland Rd.

Noblesville, IN 46060

\$15 per person

To register:

<http://chauciesplace.org/april-stewards-of-children-registration>

Board of Directors:

Jon Kizer - President
Direct Path Alliance

Sean Devenney - Vice President

Drewry Simmons Vornehm, LLP

Jeremy Cox - Treasurer
Crowe Horwath

Elizabeth Childers - Secretary
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Aaron Atlas
Jewish Community Center

Natalie Chavis
Chavis & Chavis

Lynna Leatherman
Technicolor

Megan Long
Wanzer Edwards, PC

Melissa Lorson
Helmer, Inc.

Beth Stickles McDaniel
Get Results, Inc.



About Chaucie's Place

Chaucie's Place works passionately to ensure the welfare of children by offering evidence-based; high-quality prevention programs to end the cycle of abuse and to empower children and adults to ensure that children of central Indiana have the opportunity to live to their highest potential. Additionally, the center provides a neutral, child-focused environment where forensic interviews may take place for cases of alleged child sexual and physical abuse and neglect to help reduce trauma for child victims.

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to jennifer@chauciesplace.org by jennifer@chauciesplace.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Chaucie's Place | 4607 E. 106th St. | Carmel | IN | 46033



Try it FREE today.