



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION



For additional Child Abuse Prevention Resources:

Downtown Kokomo Family YMCA:
765-457-4447

Indiana Department of Child and Family Services: [click here](#)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At the YMCA of Kokomo, the safety and well-being of the children and youth in our programs is one of our highest priorities. As a parent and grandparent, and as someone who has dedicated more than 30 years to serving the YMCA, I understand both the importance of this commitment and the tremendous responsibility that comes with it. Our leadership team and staff take this responsibility very seriously and remain committed to creating a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment for every child and family we serve.

Our Commitment to Keeping Children Safe

We are committed to creating environments where children feel safe, supported, respected, and protected. To help fulfill this commitment, we have established comprehensive child abuse prevention practices throughout our programs and facilities. Some of the steps we take to help protect children and youth include:

- Conducting required background checks for employees and volunteers.
- Training employees and volunteers to recognize, prevent, report, and respond to child abuse and concerning behaviors.
- Requiring employees and volunteers to report suspected child abuse in accordance with Indiana law and YMCA policies.
- Screening adult members and visitors, as applicable, against the National Sex Offender Registry and following established response procedures.
- Providing parents and children with age-appropriate resources on personal safety, healthy boundaries, and recognizing concerning behaviors.
- Actively monitoring and supervising our programs and participant interactions.
- Keeping interactions with youth observable and interruptible and limiting situations where an adult is alone with a child or teen.
- Partnering with child abuse prevention and risk-management professionals to continually strengthen our training, policies, and practices.
- Maintaining child abuse prevention practices consistent with YMCA standards and our commitment to safety.

It's our responsibility as a Y team to understand the risks and red flags of child abuse and what we can do to respond to abuse when we see it. It's also our responsibility to educate and share this knowledge with the broader community, including the parents of youth in our programs, in an effort to help prevent abuse.

Thank you for partnering with the YMCA of Kokomo and doing your part to help protect the children and youth in our community.



Trish Severns, President & CEO