

Robert Apps Ministries

Child Safety
Seminar
Central
Mountains
Baptist Church
Sunday 20
February 2011

Overview



Definitions of Child Abuse

- A child is any person under the age of 18.
- Child abuse consists of:-
- Emotional abuse – The chronic attitude or behaviour of a person, which is directed at a child, or, the creation of an emotional environment detrimental to that child's development.



Definitions of Child Abuse



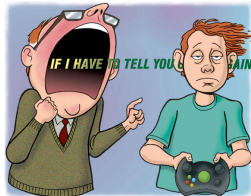
- Neglect Any serious act or omission, which impairs a child's development.
- Physical abuse Non-accidental physical injury.

Definitions of Abuse

- Sexual abuse Any sexual act, or threat to perform such an act, upon a child. It includes any act, which erodes the proper sexual boundary with a child. Any apparent 'consent' of the child is always negated.

What is NOT Abuse

- touching a non-intimate part of a child's body to gain child's attention, or to comfort a child;
- a leader raising his or her voice to attract attention or to restore order;
- accidental conduct;



What is NOT Abuse

- not providing supervision, for a good reason, (eg an emergency; short period of non supervision; risk was low);
- appropriate physical contact, such as during sport, music lessons.
- Physically restraining a child from danger, self-harm, or harm to others

Child Protection Guidelines



- Leaders not to physically discipline a child.
- Leaders should minister in pairs. If that is not possible, meet where you can be clearly seen, or accessed by others.
- A leader should not be with a child out of the sight of others, or should at least be easily accessible to others.

Child Protection Guidelines

- Touching children should be restricted to the head, shoulder, and knees when required.
- Male workers to be especially careful when making physical contact.
- Be aware and careful of children who actively seek undue physical attention.

Child Protection Guidelines

- In choosing games, consider the levels of safety and intimacy.
- Primary age children to visit toilet on their own. Younger ones to be accompanied by a female worker.



Child Protection Guidelines

- When counselling- female leaders with girls and male leaders with boys. Counsel within eyesight, or in easy access of others.
- All children to be supervised during ministry 'time'. Have designated persons to supervise.
- Be alert for strangers.



Child Protection Guidelines

- When transporting children- take another leader with you if possible.
- Carry out visitations with another leader and only when parents are home.
- Be careful of relationships that can form between leaders and children.
