



WATCH

1. Watch for physical boundary violations.

- ▶ Roughhousing, wrestling, or tickling
- ▶ Touching too much
- ▶ “Accidentally” touching inappropriately
- ▶ Encouraging children to pile on top of an adult
- ▶ Having children sit on an adult's lap
- ▶ Holding or hugging when the child resists
- ▶ Hugs with too much body contact

2. Watch for emotional boundary violations.

- ▶ Spending a great deal of time with a child
- ▶ Calling or emailing a child frequently
- ▶ Getting involved in many of the child's activities
- ▶ Acting possessive of the child

3. Watch for behavioral boundary violations.

- ▶ Ridiculing the beliefs of a child's parents
- ▶ Allowing children to do things against their parent's wishes
- ▶ Offering children cigarettes, alcohol, or drugs
- ▶ Allowing children to look at pornography or to visit inappropriate Internet sites

4. Watch for warning signs that a child may have been abused.

These behavioral warning signs may indicate that a child has been abused:

- ▶ The child changes his or her routines
- ▶ The child begins acting differently
- ▶ The child starts complaining about activities or people he or she previously enjoyed
- ▶ The child withdraws from his or her parents
- ▶ The child stops spending time with friends

Watch for these sudden changes in a child's behavior:

- ▶ Bathroom difficulty such as bed-wetting or daytime accidents
- ▶ Increased moodiness or depression
- ▶ Increased aggressive behavior
- ▶ Decline in academic performance
- ▶ Difficulties getting along with peers
- ▶ Increased inappropriate sexual behavior



ACT

1. Act when you notice warning signs in adults.

- ▶ Talk to the person you suspect.
- ▶ Explain to the person you suspect that you do not allow the actions or behaviors.
- ▶ Express your concerns to the person supervising the program where you believe boundary violations may be occurring.
- ▶ Remove your child from the situation.
- ▶ If you suspect abuse, call protective services or the police.

2. Act when you notice warning signs in your child.

- ▶ Ask your child questions like, “What is going on in your life?” or “Why are you suddenly behaving differently?”
- ▶ Let your child know he or she can tell you anything.
- ▶ Assure your child of your love and desire to keep him or her safe.

TEACH

1. Teach our children to help protect themselves.

Teach children about their bodies.

- ▶ Teach them the names of their body parts, including their private parts.
- ▶ Once they know the names of their private parts, teach them how those private parts are different from the other parts of the body, such as eyes, ears, feet, and arms.
- ▶ Teach children that most people are not allowed to touch their private parts.

Teach children what to do if someone tries to violate their boundaries.

1. They can tell the person to stop!
2. They can get away from the person.
3. They can tell their parents.
4. They can tell another adult who can protect them.

2. Teach our children they can talk to us about anything.

- ▶ Maintain open lines of communication.
- ▶ Don't act embarrassed when talking to your children.
- ▶ Build a sense of trust.
- ▶ Talk with children about sexual abuse the way that you talk to them about any other danger.
- ▶ Let children know they won't be in trouble for telling you if something happens.
- ▶ Tell your children you want to take care of them and keep them safe.
- ▶ Let them know you love them.