Reducing Risks for Volunteers

Presentation Objectives

- Participants will become aware of risks associated with child abuse.
- Participants will learn about 11 factors that help to determine risk levels for abusive situations.
- Participants will be able to identify low, medium, and high-risk abuse situations.
- Participants will be able to identify changes they can make in their interactions with youth to lower any risk of sexual abuse allegations.

How to Use This Presentation

- This presentation is designed to create an awareness of the problems associated with child abuse for youth volunteers in the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service.
- The presentation module includes:
  1. A PowerPoint presentation. (NOTE: You can print out the slide presentation to make overheads, if desired).
  2. A script keyed to the PowerPoint slides.
     - The script provides you with background information to make it easy for you to present the program in your community.
     - It can be adjusted to fit your audiences’ needs, the amount of time you have allocated for the presentation, and your individual presentation style.
     - The information in the script is for your use and background. Use as much or as little with each slide as your situation calls for.
     - We recommend that you do not read the script as printed, but rather that you become familiar enough with the information so that you can adapt it for your specific audience and give the presentation using notes you have developed.
3. Two fact sheets that can be handed out prior to the presentation if you think the
group will want to take notes, or they can be saved until the end, and provided to
the audience as a reinforcement of the pertinent information you provided.
   A) The Child Sexual Abuse Risk Exposure Matrix
   B) Reducing Risks for Volunteers
4. An evaluation form that should be administered at the conclusion of the program.
This evaluation assesses whether the participants have learned the important facts
associated with child abuse risks. All evaluations should be returned to the State
4-H Dept. immediately following the presentation. Send them to the attention of:
Optimizing Your Potential as a 4-H Volunteer – attention: Renee McKee, 1161
AGAD, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1161.

Adaptations of the Presentation

This presentation is designed as a 30-minute program covering the very basic
legal aspects of the child abuse issue. You may wish to add to the basic presentation in
one of the following ways:
   • Combine the information included in this presentation with the presentation,
     “Protecting Our Youth.” This program covers the basic legal aspects of child
     abuse, including when and how to report suspected cases and indicators that
     may signal a child is a victim.
   • Include small group discussions where participants role-play what they would
do if they find themselves in medium or high risk situations for child abuse or
ways to ensure that their youth activities are free from the risk of any sexual
abuse allegations.
   • Invite a staff member from Child Protective Services to speak at your
meeting.

For Additional Information

Legal Requirements for Responding to the Suspicion of Neglect and Abuse.
Indiana 4-H Youth Program Policies and Procedures. Purdue Cooperative Extension
Assessing the Level of Risk for Child Sexual Abuse. Indiana 4-H Youth Program
2000.
Screening Volunteers to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse: A Community Guide for
Youth Organizations. National Collaboration for Youth. The National Assembly of