

## Working Together for Safety

**Talk to your child** about his or her experiences in Y programs, sports, and other activities.

**Drop in on your child's programs.**

**Trust your instincts.** Don't wait to tell if something seems "strange". Speak up!

**Watch for warning signs of abuse:**

- Unexplainable bruising or other physical markings
- Disturbed sleeping or eating patterns
- Abrupt changes in behavior, anxiety, clinging, aggressiveness, withdrawal, depression
- Fear of a certain person or place
- Discomfort with physical contact
- A child who abuses other children

**Listen and watch for signs of your child receiving special attention that other children or teens are not receiving** including favors, treats, gifts, rides, increasing affection or time alone, particularly outside of the activities of school, child care, or other activities.

**Every once in a while, ask your child these questions:**

- Is anyone threatening you?
- Is anyone asking you to keep secrets?
- Has anyone said anything to you that made you feel bad?
- Is anyone touching you in a way that you don't like?

**Encourage your child to tell you or another trusted adult if anything happens to him or her.**

**Read the YMCA Standards of Conduct**, which is available on our website. If someone breaks it, let us know immediately.

## Child Safety Resources

Child abusers can be parents, caretakers, friends, neighbors, or anyone who comes into contact with your child – even other youth. It takes everyone's help to stop the cycle of abuse.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding a Y staff person or program, make a confidential call to Human Resources at 609.581.9622 ext. 120.

### Community Resources

**To report child abuse:**

New Jersey Hotline: 1.877.652.2873

**Sex Offender Information:**

Mercer County: 609.278.2754

Monmouth County: 732.431.7166

Middlesex County: 732.745.3300



### Hamilton Area YMCA

1315 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road  
Hamilton, NJ 08619  
609.581.9622  
hamiltonymca.org



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## Creating A Child Safe Environment

Hamilton Area YMCA





## Y and Youth

The Hamilton Area YMCA is comprised of the following locations: JKR Branch, Sawmill Branch, and Cranbrook Building.

We offer programs ranging from childcare, dance, health and wellness, senior services, swim lessons, youth development, and so much more!

Our programs take place at:

### **JKR Branch**

1351 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road  
Hamilton, NJ 08619  
609.581.9622

### **Sawmill Branch**

185 Sawmill Road  
Hamilton, NJ 08620  
609.581.9622

### **Cranbrook Building**

Adjacent to the JKR Branch  
1301 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road  
Hamilton NJ 08619

Parents place their trust in the Y to help their children thrive. Our core values - **Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility** - are a part of everything we do. Because of this, we place great value on creating the most child safe environment possible.



## Y Child Safety Policy

### **Our Staff**

The Hamilton Area YMCA has more than 500 staff members and volunteers working with youth in the many programs we offer.

### **Our Screening**

To keep children in our programs safe, we take the following steps in our intensive screening of all employees and volunteers:

- Detailed application forms
- Comprehensive interview process
- Reference checks
- Criminal background record checks
- Internet searches
- Fingerprinting for all Childcare staff

### **Our Training**

Employees complete an extensive child abuse prevention training program. Supervisors and managers complete additional training to further promote a child-safe environment. All staff members are mandated to report any suspected child abuse.

### **Our Policies**

Staff is prohibited from working one-on-one with youth outside of the Y (i.e. babysitting). Policies exist to ensure staff and volunteers are not alone with a child.



## Information About Abuse

**We want all children to be safe. Unfortunately, child abuse does exist. Taking many forms.**

**Emotional** - Threatening a child or using words that can hurt a child's feelings and self esteem; withholding love and support from a child.

**Physical** - Causing injuries to a child on purpose, such as bruises, scars, or broken bones.

**Sexual** - Having sexual contact in any form with a child, including exposing, fondling, intercourse, pornography, or internet solicitation.

**Neglect** - Not providing children with enough food, clothing, shelter, medical care, hygiene, or supervision.

### **IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE...**

- If you think your child is physically injured, seek out appropriate medical attention.
- If you see signs of distress, withdrawal, or acting out, consider counseling for your child.
- Talk to your Y Program Director for assistance.
- Call the NJ Department of Children and Families at 1.877.NJABUSE.