

SEYM Child Abuse Prevention

Guidelines for Volunteers (Wee Friends)

Requirements for adult presence:

- In an SEYM Event Youth Program session, at no time should the child be alone with an adult who is not a Registered SEYM Youth Program Worker or the child's parent or sponsor at the event.
- At all times, two adults, at least one of whom is a Registered SEYM Youth Program Worker, shall be present with each youth program group.
- Do not release a child from a program session to anyone other than the child's parent or sponsor or to persons specified by the parents or sponsors.

Acceptable touching:

- On the hand, shoulder or upper back
- In the company of other adults
- It is acceptable to hold babies if they do not show fear or discomfort. Only do so in the presence of another adult.

Unacceptable touching:

- Against a child's will or verbally or non-verbally expressed discomfort (unless to secure the safety or health of the children)
- When it would have the effect of over-stimulating a child
- In a place on a child's body that is normally covered by a bathing suit

Do:

- Kneel or sit to be on the same physical level as small children

Avoid:

- Teasing or embarrassing a child about his or her body
- Asking a child to sit on your lap or pulling him or her into your lap
- Asking a child to touch you other than on the hand, shoulder or upper back; asking a child for a hug or kiss
- Playing favorites
- Encouraging competition
- Using physical punishment or humiliation as discipline
- Insisting that a child trust you.