

## CHILD SAFETY BASICS FOR RED BANK CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN

### Two deep leadership.

- This protects you and the child—Even small children can make accusations. In their minds/emotions they cannot bear to accuse an adult they know and love, so they conflate the abuse with another adult, and this could be you if you don't have a second person present at all times!
- Parents cannot drop them off without another adult present.
- Volunteers should not be a husband and wife team.
- If one kid is late being picked up, you cannot leave one adult by themselves with the kid. Volunteers need to have a "buddy system" where they make sure they are not leaving others behind—even if this is inconvenient!

### Bathrooms.

- Don't go into the bathroom with kids unless they need it, have another adult present.
- Check the bathrooms to make sure no one is in there ahead of time.
- Diaper changing (nursery only).

### Profile of Predators:

- There is NO profile for them. Period. Statistically, the vast majority are men, but this is no guarantee.
- They will work to get close to kids, and even to parents so that parents can feel comfortable with them being with their kids, especially if they can get with the kids alone.
- The #1 thing we can do for prevention is to make sure they know we are on the lookout for them.
  - There is usually a paranoia that goes with being a predator... they have such a fear of getting caught that they never talk about any of their sexual problems and so they never get any help thus perpetuating their problems.

### Keeping Predators Out:

- If anyone comes to the Children's Ministry Wing that does not belong, you ask them, "can I help you" and you are fine to tell them "for the children's safety you cannot be here" if they don't have a good reason to be there.
- Must have Background Checks, Sign in and Sign Out Procedures, volunteers must turn in references too!
- All suspicious behavior must be reported and documented and dealt with immediately.

**Appropriate Behavior:** For the list below: one or a few of these behaviors (listed below) is usually not a red flag. It is the presence of *many* behaviors that should begin to arouse suspicion.

- No tickling, no wrestling.
- Only appropriate picking them up if needed.
- Cannot have children sit in your lap.
- Do not bring children gifts unless all the children get gifts—absolutely no singling out of children.
- Do not work to go out of your way to get attention or be around the children.
  - Does not mean you can't show them affection, or respond to the love/affection kids give to you.
  - And when with families you know and that know you and whom you love, you can behave differently, but not here. Cannot set a precedent for physical contact that is inappropriate for church, public setting, or ministry.