



Child policy_Scripture Union Croatia (DPB)

In recent years child protection has become a matter of great concern in society as a whole and the need to provide adequate care for children and young people must be at the forefront of any camp. At the DPB House training center we are committed to the protection of children from physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. This document is to help you understand the issues relating to child protection, and to prepare team members to deal with matters that may arise at camp.

What is abuse? Here are some of the most commonly defined kinds of abuse.

Physical	Where children suffer physical harm or injury or where there is a failure to prevent such injury.
Emotional	Where children do not receive love and affection; they may be frightened by threats and taunts or be given responsibilities inappropriate for their years.
Sexual	Where children or young people are involved in sexual activity they do not fully comprehend or to which they are unable to give informed consent.
Neglect	Where adults persistently and severely fail to care for children or protect them from danger, resulting in serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Possible Symptoms: Behaviors which might be indicators of child abuse, but they should not be taken in isolation.

Physical	Unexplained or hidden injuries; lack of medical attention.
Emotional	Reverting to younger behavior; nervousness; sudden underachievement; attention-seeking; running away; stealing; lying.
Sexual	Preoccupation with sexual matters (evident in words, play, drawings); being sexually provocative; disturbed sleep, nightmares, bed-wetting; secretive relationships with adults or children.



Neglect	Appearing ill cared for or unhappy; being withdrawn or aggressive; having injuries or ongoing health problems.
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Child protection response

What do you do if a child, young person or volunteer discloses or alleges abuse?

1. Do not panic. Try to act in a composed and sympathetic manner.
2. Listen carefully; only ask questions of clarification; do not ask questions that seek for information; do not start to investigate.
3. Reassure the young person that it was right to tell you and that you will take their concerns seriously.
4. Do not promise confidentiality - explain that you will have to tell someone else.
5. Stay with the young person until they are reassured and comforted.
6. Immediately tell the program director. (If the camp director is implicated in any way - or if you feel that they have not acted correctly in following up your information - call the DPB House training center Director or in his/ her absence the chairperson of the board.)
7. Write up and keep detailed notes of exactly what took place (empty report documents are available)

Child protection good practice

When serving at a retreat at the DPB House training center please remember to follow these guidelines.

Treat all children and young people as individuals, with the respect and dignity that befits their age.



Be thoughtful about your language and tone of voice.

Not engage in any of the following: invading the privacy of children / young people * rough, physical or sexually provocative games inappropriate or intrusive touching of any form any scapegoating, ridiculing or rejecting of a child. * This particularly applies to times when they are showering / toileting and care also needs to be exercised when children are changing.

Learn to control and discipline children without using any physical means other than restraint by holding to prevent injury.

Not let youngsters involve you in excessive attention-seeking behaviour, especially any that is overtly sexual or physical in nature.

Ensure that you are not alone with a child where you cannot be seen by others.

Try to find a place that is open and visible for any counseling situation where privacy and confidentiality are important.

Camper protection is a MUST! Working together, we can provide a safe environment where campers can hear and see through our words and actions God's love for them. All volunteers, staff, and board members are required to do background checks and child protection training.

Since summer 2018, Scripture Union Croatia (DPB) supplemented this training with MinistrySafe (awareness training) who offer a complete child safety system (<https://ministrysafe.com>)

Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." - Jesus