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## A Parent's Guide To Selecting Youth-Serving Organizations

Between soccer practice, tutoring sessions and piano lessons, your child is frequently under the care of many different adults. As a parent, you are one of the most important links in the chain of prevention. Below are some proactive questions to help you understand an organization's prevention measures.

### How are employees and volunteers screened?

- Employee screening best practices include an in-depth application, personal and professional references, criminal background check and an extensive interview.
- After an employee is hired, they should be monitored to ensure they keep in line With all protection policies and do not engage in high-risk behaviors.

### Is there a child protection policy?

- Youth-serving organizations should have clearly defined child protection policies.
- Staff should have advanced training for activities such as toileting, diapering, driving with children, and overnight activities.
- The organization should welcome you to visit your child at any time. Make it a habit to drop in unexpectedly.

### Does the policy include limiting isolated one-on-one situations?

- There should be separate areas and activities for different age groups. Make it clear that you would always like an adult present with your child.

### How do older and younger children interact?

- Older or more powerful youth are perpetrators in at Of all sexual abuse incidences. Supervising contact between children and older/bigger youth requires structure and adult supervision.

Source: *Darkness to Light*



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