



CHILD VERSION:

Safeguarding Children and Young People at the YMCA

We at the YMCA believe children who participate in our programs should:

1. **feel comfortable**
2. **be cared for**
3. **feel safe and be safe**

- ✓ Everyone who works at the YMCA does their best to make sure children are protected from any harm
- ✓ It is not okay for anyone to hurt your feelings or your body
- ✓ It is okay for you to say NO to an adult if they ask you to do something that makes you feel unsafe or uncomfortable
- ✓ If you ever feel unsafe or uncomfortable a YMCA staff member will listen to you and act to help you
- ✓ It is always okay to tell someone if you are not feeling comfortable or safe or if you have been hurt
- ✓ If you are unhappy with the way you are being treated please tell a staff member or a parent
- ✓ The YMCA welcomes all children into our programs. We know that being different is a good thing as this is what makes you unique

Rules for staff

We have rules for our staff (the people who work here) so that you are always safe at the YMCA.

Everyone who works at the YMCA:

- Looks out for children to make sure they are safe and comfortable
- Will check that you have an adult or other supervisor looking after you at all times
- Wears a uniform, a name tag or both
- Makes rules that are fair and that you can understand
- Is not allowed to yell at you in an angry way or be grumpy towards you
- Will explain to you if you have broken a rule
- Needs to get the permission of your parents or guardians to take you on an excursion
- Will help you if you ask for help
- Is not allowed to contact you when you are not at a YMCA program
- Is not allowed to give you lifts in their car
- Makes sure that everyone can enjoy the activities

Responsibilities of children

Children also have responsibilities when they come to a YMCA program. These are:

- Treat other children and adults with respect
- Listen to others and respect their opinions
- Children can choose their own friends but are not to stop other children from enjoying and participating in a program
- Don't tease or hurt other children
- Let a staff person or parent know if you are unhappy with the way you are being treated