



Appropriate Touch and Discipline

NAD Youth Ministries Safety Resources

APPROPRIATE TOUCH

- a. Always ask a child's permission before physically touching him/her anywhere, even when responding to an injury or problem. This is especially true for any areas that would normally be covered by a T-shirt and/or shorts. (If an injury is within this area, make sure another adult works with you as care is provided.)
- b. Volunteers must not engage in inappropriate physical contact of any kind – including rough physical play, physical reprimand and horseplay (this should not prevent appropriate contact in situations where it is necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of a child).
- c. Affirm children with appropriate touching by keeping hugs brief and “shoulder-to-shoulder” or “side-to-side.” Always keep hands at (not below) the shoulder level. A caregiver's kiss should be to the forehead or cheek only – not elsewhere. For small children who like to sit on laps, encourage them to sit next to you.

APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE

- a. Any discipline administered shall occur within the visual contact of another adult. Any form of physical punishment of children is not permissible under any circumstances.
- b. Verbal abuse of children or telling jokes of a sexual nature in the presence of children is unacceptable.

RESPECT FOR CHILDREN

- a. Children's need for privacy should be respected at all times. Particular care regarding privacy must be taken when young people are in locations such as changing areas, swimming pools, showers and restrooms.
- b. Photographs of children or young people must never be taken while they are in changing areas (for example, in a locker room or bathing facility).
- c. Tasks of a personal nature (for example, helping with toileting, washing or changing clothing) should not be carried out for children or young people if they can undertake these tasks themselves.

VOLUNTEERS' BEHAVIOR

- a. A disproportionate amount of time should not be spent with any child in particular or group of children.
- b. Under no circumstances may volunteers give alcohol, tobacco or drugs to children or young people.
- c. Alcohol, tobacco or drugs must not be used by any individual on church premises or during a sponsored activity.
- d. Only age-appropriate language, material on media products (such as camera phones, internet, video) and activities should be used when working with children and young people (sexually explicit or pornographic material is never acceptable).

<https://adventistyouthministries.org/safety-resources/protection-supervision>