

# The Care and Safety of Other People's Children

## A. M. Skier's Annual Summer 2011 Workshop

### Summer 2011 Caretaker Issues of Concern

- **Social Cruelty (bullying, cyberbullying, texting, sexting)**
- **Camper & Staff Accountability**
- **Inappropriate Intimate Behaviors**
- **Late Night & Overnight Issues**
- **L.G.B.T. Harassment**
- **Staff Time Off**

### Identification & Prevention of Child Abuse

#### Signs of Physical Abuse

Bruises, welts, bites, choke marks, burns, cuts, fractures, black eyes, & unexplained injuries

#### Signs of Sexual Abuse

Difficulty walking or sitting – pain in the genital area – bruises or bleeding from the penis, vaginal, or anal area

#### Emotional Abuse

Verbal assaults, ridicule, harassment, abandonment, deprivation of love and care

#### Neglect & Maltreatment

Failure to thrive, filth & infestation, medical deprivation, environmental deprivation, exposure, closeting, lack of supervision

#### Physical Abuse – Defined

Corporal punishment, spanking, hitting, pushing, shaking, tossing, throwing, hazing – (rights & wrongs of passage)

#### Sexual Abuse – Defined

Encouraging sexual activity among campers  
Voyeurism  
Exhibitionism  
Exposing children to pornography  
Kissing or touching intimate parts of a child's body or having children inappropriately touch adults  
Photographing naked children  
Discussing age inappropriate sexual data with campers

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### Counselor Judgment Considerations

1. What are the physical risks involved in this activity/decision?
2. Are there any risks I might not be able to see?
3. If something was to go wrong and someone got hurt physically or emotionally, how would I feel?
4. Who is this activity/decision for – the kids or me?
5. What would I do if the kid's parents were watching?
6. What would I do if my director were watching?
7. How will I think about this tomorrow?
8. Will my decision or action cost me my job?

### Child Molesters/Pedophiles

Is the person TOO GOOD to be true?  
Is the person spending TOO MUCH TIME with campers?  
Is the person OBSESSED with caring for campers?  
Does the person create reasons TO BE ALONE with campers? Does the person watch child pornography?  
Is the person giving UNNECESSARY GIFTS or REWARDS?  
Does the person spend the off-season visiting campers at their homes? Does he/she have an E-mail relationship with them, constantly calling on the telephone and writing letters? (In other words-does he/she have a life?)

### Staff Precautions

Always be in view of others – No campers in private quarters – Supervise in pairs – No kissing of campers – High fives only – No butt slaps for praise – Respect the privacy of campers – Use caution in what you share – Use of alcohol & drugs forbidden – No sitting on laps – No communication with campers before or after the season – Internet communications must follow camp policies – Staff prescribed medications must be stored in the health center – Watching Child Pornography comes with a jail sentence

### How to Handle Disclosure of Abuse

Thank you for telling me – I believe you –  
You did nothing wrong - I will get help for you

### Reporting Regulations

Suspected or observed child abuse must be reported to a camp supervisor or administrator – Staff are not to do their own investigations of alleged abuse – The camp director or his/her designee will notify the state and report back the finding to the staff who brought it to their attention – Failure to report child abuse is immediate grounds for dismissal.



## The Anti-Bullying Pledge

The insidious problem of bullying in schools has become of major concern during the last two years because of the number of children who have both attempted or succeeded in taking their young tortured lives by suicide. Becoming better known as "social cruelty" the victims and observers of such behaviors on the part of both boys and girls has created such tremendous fears, anxieties, and serious psychological concerns that local, state and county governments are now creating state and federal laws prohibiting this behavior.

**Camp is no place for a bullying behaviors but unfortunately bullies may not know it, so it happens. The good news is that it can be stopped quickly and dramatically if 100% of the administrators, counselors, staff, volunteers and parents agree that it may no longer be allowed.**

### The Anti-bullying Pledge

This is for me and my friends today and my friends tomorrow.  
I think being mean stinks!

I won't watch someone get picked on because I am a do something person,  
not a do nothing person.

I care - I can help change things - I can be a leader.  
In my world there are no bullies allowed. Bullying is bad - Bullying bites  
Bullying bothers me. I know sticking up for someone is the right thing to do.

**My Name is \_\_\_\_\_**  
**and I won't stand by - I WILL STAND UP.**



# ***Our Camp is No Place for BULLYING behaviors!***

**The physical and emotional safety of other people's children has always been, and continues to be, our number one concern and priority.**

## **Social Cruelty (Bullying)**

### **What is it?**

Social Cruelty is defined as any behavior where a person aggressively attacks another person with words or actions directed to injure the victim's well being, to damage his or her standing, or to simply assert the aggressor's dominance.

### **What does it look like?**

1. Teasing
2. Exclusion
3. Bullying
4. Rumoring
5. Ganging up

### **Why does it happen?**

1. Social cruelty happens because it can.
2. Many professionals responsible for children in every capacity share responsibility for the escalation of this problem.
3. Many feel that bullying is simply part of growing up, and no real cause of concern.
4. Why bother, some exclaim, it can't be stopped anyway.

### **What are researched definitions?**

1. There is a pattern of behavior established.
2. The bullying behavior has a negative impact emotionally, spiritually or physically on the target/victim.
3. An imbalance of power is established, which can take the form of gender, popularity, size, weight, economic situation, number of people involved, or intimidating looks.
4. The bullying behavior is purposeful

### **Is teasing ever acceptable and not considered bullying?**

Teasing is acceptable when:

1. Friends and everyone involved are getting an equal share of the teasing. (Kids are not ganging up on one person.)
2. People are not making fun of someone's disabilities, ethnicity, faith, or other characteristics that are out of the person's control.
3. The teasing is not repeated over and over again.
4. It is not meant to harm you in any way, and if you asked the person to stop, they would.
5. Someone you have a close relationship with does the teasing.

**Social Cruelty (Bullying) cannot take place if together we refuse to allow it to happen.**

### **Ask your campers? - Who asks? - (*Every adult caretaker!*)**

- "How are you today?"
- Is everything OK?
- Please let us know if we can help with any problems, especially bullying?"

### **Tell your campers? - Who tells? - (*Every adult caretaker!*)**

- "We will not tolerate any cruelty of campers to anyone."
- "Campers who bully will not remain at camp. Please don't test us."
- "We can only deal with cruelty if we know about it."
- "If you see something, say something."

***Our Camp has a published anti-bullying policy. Parents, campers, staff, and volunteers are aware of it. Together we will prevent cruelty of any camper. Our camp is no place for a bully. A bully sent home, stays home: no return to camp this summer.***

#### References:

Pickardt, Carl. Why Good Kids Act Cruel: *The Hidden Truth about Pre-Teen Years*. Source Books, IL, 2010 --Coloroso, Barbara. *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander*. Harper Resource, New York, 2004 -- Dess, Jeff, Prevention Intervention Website. [www.cobbk12.org/preventionintervention](http://www.cobbk12.org/preventionintervention)