DEVELOPING SAFE AND HEALTHY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

NPUC ECE Workshop, June 26, 2017
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Health and Safety

- Physical safety issues
- Supervision policies and rationale
- Health concerns
- Transportation issues
- Abuse prevention and intervention
- Accident reporting and response
Expectations

• Parental expectations:
  – Proper care
  – Proper supervision
  – Safe transportation
  – Protection from abuse and neglect

• Vigilance
Safety and Liability

• Negligence
• Duty to protect
• You represent something greater than yourself
• Practical Risk Management
  – Premises
  – Equipment
  – Supervision

This is your flock

• Leadership role
• Duty to protect
• Care, Custody, and Control
• Represent something larger than yourself
More Than A Legal Duty

*Whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.*

—Mark 9:42 KJV

In the News…

1. **Child injured by tetherball at Pasco preschool**
   - Florida, August 20, 2009
2. **Two-year-old boy walks out of Tucson child care**
   - Mother says child was gone for more than an hour
   - Tucson, AZ, September 24, 2012
3. **3 children killed in fire at Texas HOME day care center**
   - HOUSTON, TX, FEBRUARY 24, 2011
4. **Daycare accidentally serves bleach-water cleaner to children**
   - GONZALEZ, TX, FEBRUARY 17, 2012
5. **Daycare evacuated after electrical fire**
   - McKees Rocks, PA, October 8, 2012
6. **Two Injured When Van Crashes Into Daycare**
   - St. Louis, MO, September 18, 2012
7. **Heat Caused Death Of Child Left In Daycare Van**
   - Dallas, July 29, 2012
8. **Daycare abuse caught on tape, 2 arrests and 3 injuries**
   - Wickford, RI, July 25, 2012
9. **California Preschool To Close After Students Allegedly Engaged In Sex Acts With Each Other**
   - February 14, 2013
Risk Management & Childcare

• Prevention
  – Injuries to staff and children
  – Property losses
  – Financial losses
  – Damage to credibility

• Recovery

Risk Management

-risk identification
  • Analyze Risks, Hazards and Values
-risk control
  • Prevention, Minimize or Avoidance
-risk financing
  • Insure, Retain or Transfer
Risk Identification and Control

- Regulatory/Operational standards:
  - Address exposures
  - Reduce loss potential
- Failure to integrate standards:
  - Injuries
  - Property losses
  - Misconduct
  - Vehicle accidents
  - Fines/loss of license
  - Lawsuits
  - Prosecution

Guidance

- Union/Conference
- Regulatory Agencies
  - State
  - Local
    - Building and Planning
    - Fire Marshal
    - Health Department, etc.
STAFF, SUPERVISION, ABUSE

Staffing

• Define Qualifications
  – Directors
  – Teachers
  – Aides

• Hiring
  – Health requirements
  – Background checks

• Training
  – General orientation
    • Minimum licensing requirements
    • Abuse and prevention, detection, reporting
    • Bloodborne Pathogens
    • Health policies
    • Fire safety, emergency plans and more…
  – Continuing education
Staffing

• Staff/student ratios
  – Based on ages and group size
  – Vary by jurisdiction
  – Never less than 2
  – As required for youngest age in mixed group

• Special Considerations
  – Infant needs
    • Sleeping arrangements
    • Nutrition and feeding
    • Storing breast milk and formula
    • Bottle preparation, etc.

Staffing and Risk Control

Quality and Quantity

• Skilled
  – Education
  – Orientation
  – Continuing education

• Background checks and observation

• Minimum two
To Report Abuse

https://www.childwelfare.gov

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline
1.800.4.A.CHILD (1.800.422.4453)

To Report Abuse

Alaska (AK)
800-478-4444

Idaho (ID)
800-926-2588

Montana (MT)
866-820-KIDS (5437)

Washington (WA)
866-END-HARM
(866-363-4276)
800-562-5624
(after hours)
800-624-6186 (TTY)
Contents of a Report

- Name of the child who is the alleged victim;
- Age of the child;
- Home address or address where the child can be reached;
- Parents’ names, phone numbers, and addresses, if known;
- Type of suspected abuse;
- Alleged perpetrator, if known;
- Specific physical and behavioral indicators of the maltreatment;
- Opinion of whether the child is in imminent danger;
- Name, phone number, and address of the reporter.

When a Child is telling you about abuse

Disclosure is difficult for a child because:

- There is a sense of shame associated with the maltreatment
- There is a sense of loyalty to the abuser
- There is a real fear of not being believed
- There is a fear of negative consequences—to the child or to family members
Staffing and Risk Control

• Another story
  – Child on child horrors

• Appropriate ratios
  – Reduce potential for abuse
    • Minimum of two staff
  – Prevent injuries

• Supervisors supervise

• Distractions

EMERGENCY PLANNING
Emergency Plans

- Written
- All potential disasters
- Staff understand roles
- Drills
- Reevaluation
- Rewrite
- Test again.

Once Upon a Time 2

Observing an evacuation
- Fire Department
  - First aid
  - Don’t hold your breath
- False alarms
- A different set of eyes
- Reviewing in reverse
- The ramp shuttle
Emergency & Contingency Plans

Weaknesses

• Focus primarily on fire
  – Natural disasters
  – Abductions
  – Vehicle accidents

• Staff do not know responsibilities

• Lack contingency plans

HEALTH AND NUTRITION
Health and Nutrition

Written health policies and procedures
• Shared with new staff
• Handling minor injuries and illnesses
• Managing medications
• Cleaning procedures
• Hand washing
• And much, much more...

RECORDS
Records, Reporting, Posting

- Children’s data
- Immunization tracking
- Attendance
  - Sign-in and sign-out of children
- Illness, injury, child abuse
  - Unusual Incident/Injury Report
  - Unusual behavior, signs of illness, special needs
- Files maintained per regulations

Posting
- The Center’s license
- Personal Rights form
- Meal and snack menus
- Child restraint system poster
- Daily activity schedule
- Disaster plan/Earthquake checklist
- Others
Records and Risk Management

• Proof of program elements and “due diligence”
• Maintenance
  – Facilities
  – Vehicles
• Needed in lawsuits

Accident Investigation

• Visit the scene
• Interview witnesses and record names/contact
• Check for causes resulting from
  • dangerous practices or disobedience
  • poor housekeeping
  • improper apparel
• Describe Accident/Incident

Available at www.AdventistRisk.org
Things to AVOID

• Attempting to place the blame on an individual
• Assuming there is just one cause for an accident
• Determining causes without investigation
• Attempting to take the place of the Administration in corrective action
• Release of information to any unauthorized parties

PHYSICAL PLANT
Physical Plant

• Space requirements
  – Vary by age group
  – Vary by use
  – Floor plan
• Location requirements
  – Emergency fire
  – Medical
  – Police

Physical Plant Safety

• Preventive maintenance
  – Safer facilities
• Self-inspections – Walking Surfaces
  – Cracks or raised areas
  – Potholes
  – Missing handrails/railings
Physical Plant Safety

- Preventive maintenance
  - Safer facilities
- Self-inspections - Electrical
  - Cords deteriorated or across floors
  - Multi-plug outlets
  - Piggybacked power strips
  - Electrical outlets broken or not covered
  - Tamper-Resistant

Physical Plant Safety

Self-inspections
- Heavy objects not strapped down
- Items stored hazardously
Physical Plant Safety

Self-inspections
• Vision panels installed and not covered
• Aisles free of storage

Playground Safety

www.cpsc.gov

• Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)
• Design
  – Surfaces
  – Spacing
  – Age-appropriate
  – No Projections
• Inspected
• Maintained
Outside Play Areas

- Right size
- Designed, constructed, arranged and maintained for safety
- Fenced
- Private entrance or approach to playground

OUTINGS AND ACTIVITIES
Outings and Activities

• Parental consent/medical release
• Adequate qualified supervision
• Safe transportation
• Children and Parked Vehicles

Outing Planning

• Pre-Trip
• In-Transit
• On-Site
• In-Transit (Return)
• Debrief

Available at www.AdventistRisk.org
## Communicate

**Staff**
- Assigned Duties
- Code of Conduct
- Responsibility of Supervision
- Disciplinary Practices
- Emergency Procedures
- Trip Schedules

**Parents**
- Expectations
- Expected Code of Conduct
- Personal Relationships
- Trip Schedules
- How to Make Contact
- Permission/Medical Forms
- Disciplinary Practices

## Permission & Release Forms
- Three Specific Purposes
  - Consent to Participate
  - Emergency Medical Treatment Authorization
  - Contact Information
- Be Specific to the Activities
- Identify Potential Hazards
- Identify Medical Limitations
- Signed by Parent or Guardian of the child
- Copies with Director and Drivers
Transportation Safety

- Potential for multiple injuries
- Good vehicle maintenance
- Pre-trip inspections
- Vehicles used as designed
- Seatbelt/restraints used
- Driver qualifications
- Non-owned vehicle issues
- 15-passenger vans
TRANSPORTATION

- Vehicle properly licensed
- Emergency equipment (first aid, reflective triangles, etc.)
- Method to call for help
- Proper restraints
- Maintained in good repair
- Drivers properly licensed
- Child to staff ratios

NAD Policy Update

*S 60 31 (GC S 60 30-3) Vehicle Insurance*

7. **Fifteen-Passenger Van Use**—In the interest of safety, denominational organizations shall not purchase, lease, rent, or use 15-passenger vans or modified 15-passenger vans for sponsored activities under any circumstances. Alternatives to 15-passenger vans include: minivans and SUVs, mini-school buses, 15-passenger buses with dual rear wheels.
Remove 15 Passenger Vans

MYTH: If I take out a row of seats from the van, is it then Approved for use.

FACT: Removing a row of seats does not make it an approved form of transportation. The vehicle is still the same type of van with the same inherent flaws.

MYTH: If I use a van that is privately owned, my church won’t be held liable.

FACT: Using a Privately owned 15- Passenger van or even renting a 15- Passenger van for a church activity does not protect the church from allegations of liability.

Transportation Safety

- Good driving Record
  - No “at fault” accidents
  - Less than two citations within past 3 years
- Must be 21 years or older
- Reputation for safe driving habits
- Proper licensing and registration
- Adequate insurance if driving their own vehicle
Driver Distractions

- Cell Phones
- Eating & Drinking
- Noise, Chaos & Loud Music
- Grooming
- Outside Attractions

Vehicle Maintenance

- Enforce a good vehicle upkeep program
- Odometer or time based maintenance schedule
- Maintain a copy of all relevant documents
- Conduct a pre and post trip inspection
Vehicle Inspection

- Tire pressure
- Fluid levels
- Belts & hoses
- Mirrors
- Turn signals
- Lights

Available at www.AdventistRisk.org

Keeping Up

- Toy, crib and Clothing Safety
- www.cpsc.gov
- Recall updates via Email
- Current crib standards
Your Childcare Center

Review
Strengthen
Enjoy the rewards!
Thank You!

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