

UCC CHILD CARE EXPECTATIONS for Youth



Youth Volunteer & Parent -

The following information needs to be reviewed to ensure understanding of the importance of our Safe Place guidelines. There will be ministry training given for the specific ministry you will be participating in.

- Review the UCC Child Care Expectations (below) together then complete the complete the attached Youth Volunteer Information Form, both signatures are required.
- Return the completed form to your ministry leader or the church office. Keep this page to refer to.

If you have questions, contact Cheryl Ziegler, UCC Safe Place Coordinator – cherylz@uplandcc.org or 998-2746.

YOUTH Safe Place guidelines

- **Appropriate physical contact** - No one should ever feel uncomfortable in the way they are being touched. Appropriate touching means offering a gentle touch on the shoulders, hands, arms, or back.

Inappropriate touching includes kissing, demanding kissing or hugs, touching private areas where a bathing suit would cover, or any physical contact that feels uncomfortable or disturbing. It is okay to hold babies, but if a preschool or older child wants to sit with you, have the child sit beside you or on your knee (not in your lap close to your body).

- **Follow supervision guidelines.** All children and youth volunteers must work with a trained adult and follow their directions.
- Staff and volunteers who work with children/youth should always observe the “2-adult-rule”, and “3-person-rule”.

The “2-adult-rule” requires that all workers make every effort reasonable to avoid situations where one adult is left alone with children/youth. If there is only one adult present, the “3-person-rule” is required. No adult is ever permitted to be alone with one child. There must be either 2 adults and 1 child or 1 adult and 2 children present (at least 3 people). **Youth should never supervise children without the presence of an adult.**

Safe Place guidelines are designed to reduce the risk of accidents, problems, misunderstandings or actual child abuse in our program by reducing isolation with a child/youth and increasing accountability for our staff and children/youth workers.

- **Report inappropriate or suspicious behavior.** Any inappropriate or suspicious behavior needs to be reported to a ministry leader or the SafePlace Coordinator immediately. This includes reporting any suspected abuse being committed (to a child, by a child, by an adult present or not present, or for any child with signs of abuse). **No one will ever be in trouble for reporting suspected abuse.**