



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

The Valley of the Sun YMCA is dedicated to keeping children in our programs and branches safe. Our practices around Child Abuse Prevention are a priority for our staff and volunteers, ensuring that when your child is in a YMCA program they are safe and with trusted adults. The YMCA has best practices around prevention and response to potential child abuse or mistreatment.

BACKGROUND SCREENINGS: All YMCA staff and volunteers complete criminal background checks in order to serve at the YMCA. Staff members additionally complete a reference check process that includes a screening for abuse risk. Licensed Childcare staff members are required to maintain a Level One fingerprint clearance card through the AZ Department of Public Safety and complete a criminal background check through the Department of Child Safety.

TRAINING: YMCA staff and volunteers complete mandatory training in identifying potential child abuse, red-flag behaviors and reporting potential abuse. YMCA staff complete 6 hours of training within their first 90 days of hire and an additional 4 hours annually.

SUPERVISION STANDARDS: The YMCA maintains strict supervision standards aligned to the program model and age of youth. Children are never to be left alone with an adult or another child, instead we follow the “rule of three” – that at least two staff and one child, or two children and one staff are present. Our supervision standards also address use of high-risk areas, such as restrooms, changing stalls, and close spaces.

REPORTING: All YMCA staff are mandated reporters and are trained that if they “see something- say something”. YMCA staff work with program leadership to identify proper reporting and documentation protocol. The YMCA treats all allegations of abuse or mistreatment seriously, and will thoroughly investigate and take action.

The YMCA encourages all members, participants and their families to report any unusual behaviors, incidents or suspected abuse to the Confidential Reporting Hotline: **833-380-2899**

<https://report.syntrio.com/vosymca-members-participants>

Additional Resource: Arizona Child Abuse Hotline (1-888-SOS-CHILD)