

COMMITMENT TO YOUTH AND CHILD SAFETY

We are proud and respectful of the trust parents place in our YMCA. A safe environment for children combined with quality programming is an important part of our focus on youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

The YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston serves over 5,000 members, with many participants under the age of 18. We place great value on providing the most child-safe environment possible and creating an atmosphere where children can grow and thrive.

We provide licensed childcare, after school enrichment programs, summer camp, swim lessons, sports programs and more to those living in and around Oxford and Androscoggin counties.



KNOW



SEE



RESPOND

CHILD SAFE RESOURCES

Auburn Police Department

60 Court St, Auburn, ME 04210
(207) 333-6650

Lewiston Police Department

171 Park Street, Lewiston, ME 04240
(207) 513-3001

To report suspected child abuse

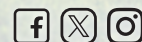
1 (800) 452-1999
maine.gov

National Child Abuse Hotline

1 (800) 422-4453
childhelp.org

YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston

62 Turner Street
Auburn, ME 04210
(207) 795-4095
alymca.org



OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFETY



YMCA OF AUBURN-LEWISTON



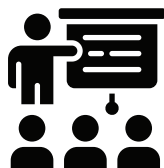
CREATING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

We take the following steps to keep children in our programs safe:

- Detailed employment application forms.
- Comprehensive reference checks that include standardized questions that assess risk for abuse.
- Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) and Sexual Offender Registry Information (SORI) check.
- All staff complete an extensive Child Abuse Prevention Training Program.
- Staff and volunteers are mandated to report any suspected child abuse.
- Staff are prohibited from working 1-on-1 with or contacting youth outside the Y.
- Policies exist to ensure staff and volunteers are not alone with a child. All interactions between a staff member or volunteer and a child must be observable and interruptible.

Employees who are trained in abuse prevention are more likely to understand their role as a protector, to recognize the signs that abuse is occurring, and to report suspicious or inappropriate behaviors.

Trained staff members are also less likely to place themselves in situations where they could be falsely accused.



KNOW

INFORMATION ABOUT ABUSE

Statistics predict that 1 in 10 children will be the victim of sexual abuse before the age of 18.

Emotional: Threatening a child or using words that can hurt a child's feelings and self-esteem, withholding love and support from a child.

Physical: Causing injuries to a child on purpose, such as bruises, burns, scars, broken bones, etc.

Sexual: Having sexual contact in any form with a child, including exposing, fondling, intercourse, pornography, or internet solicitation.

Negligent: Not providing children with enough food, clothing, shelter, medical care, hygiene, supervision, etc.



SEE

WARNING SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE

Unkempt or malnourished appearance.

Unexplained bruises, welts, or burns.

Disrupted sleeping or eating patterns.

Abrupt changes in behavior, anxiety, clinging, aggressiveness, or withdrawal.

Sexually transmitted diseases and infections.

Discomfort with physical contact.

Fear of a certain person or place.

Fearfulness or depression.



RESPOND

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT ABUSE?

TALK regularly to your child about their experiences in YMCA programs, school, sports, and other activities.

DROP IN on your child's programs.

TRUST your instincts. Don't wait to tell us if something seems strange. Take action and speak up!

LISTEN & WATCH for signs of your child receiving special attention that other children or teens are not receiving.

ASK your child these questions periodically:

Is anyone scaring or threatening you?

Is anyone asking you to keep secrets?

Has anyone said anything to make you feel bad?

Is anyone touching you in a way you do not like?

EDUCATE your child about self-protection, including information about strangers, and good and bad touches.

LEARN to control the stress level of yourself and family members.

COMMUNICATE with your child and really listen to their concerns.

RECOGNIZE the fact that most abuse happens by people that children know and trust.

BECOME AWARE of your community resources.

KNOW where your children are and who their friends are.

TEACH your children it's not okay to keep secrets from you, that they can always tell you the truth.