

Reflection Questions

Best Practice #3 – Set, Document and Enforce Boundaries

Complete the following questions as a basis for both personal reflection and as possible input to your interactive staff discussion.

OFF-HOURS BOUNDARIES

➤ What formal policy does your organization have in place regarding how staff communicate and interact with the kids you serve during their off-hours?

➤ What informal practices do you or your organization have in place regarding how staff communicate and interact with the kids you serve during their off-hours?

➤ Do your staff members babysit or tutor children in your program on their own time? How about siblings of the children in your care? Do you have any policies in place that limit this type of access?

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➤ Do you have any boundaries that restrict your staff members from visiting the homes of the children in your care or vice versa?

➤ Does your organization host sleepovers either on-site or off ? Can a sleepover be hosted by just one staff member? Do you allow sleepovers at staff member’s homes?

➤ What specific boundaries are in place to provide adequate protection from sexual abuse during organization approved sleepovers? How are these additional boundaries communi- cated to staff, parents, and children?

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- Does your organization serve teenagers? If so, what is your formal policy regarding those teens dating staff members? What are your informal practices in this area?

ELECTRONIC AND SOCIAL MEDIA BOUNDARIES

- What communication methods do you personally use (cell phone, e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Instagram, etc.)?

- What level of security settings do you use on your social media sites (i.e., what information can be seen by people who are not connected with you?)

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➤ Are the kids that your organization serves old enough to have cell phones and/or use e-mail and social media sites? If so, which of these communication methods do you hear about them using?

➤ What formal policies does your organization have in place regarding how staff communicate and interact with the kids you serve via electronic communication? What social media platforms are formally incorporated into your program?

➤ What informal practices do you and/or your organization have in place regarding how staff communicate and interact with the kids you serve via electronic communication?

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STUDENT-TO-STUDENT BOUNDARIES

➤ What formal policy and/or boundaries does your organization have in place to protect children from inappropriate sexual behavior with another child?

➤ What informal practices do you and/or your organization have in place to protect children from inappropriate sexual behavior with another child?

➤ Are there times and/or locations when children are not fully visible to staff members? Describe.

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➤ What is your formal policy regarding monitoring bathroom visits?

➤ What are your informal practices with regards to monitoring bathroom visits?

➤ Are your programs separated by age group or do you have activities when a broad range of children are together? What formal policy or informal practices do you have to ensure the safety of younger children during these activities?

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GIFT BOUNDARIES

➤ What formal boundaries does your organization have in place regarding giving gifts to children in your care? How about gifts to the parents?

➤ What informal boundaries does your organization have in place regarding giving gifts to children in your care? How about gifts to the parents?

