



INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS TO WATCH FOR WHEN ADULTS (OR OLDER YOUTH) ARE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

- Behaviors that routinely disrespect or ignore boundaries and personal space
- Using teasing or belittling language which keeps a child from setting a limit
- Insists on hugging, touching, wrestling, tickling or holding a child when a child clearly doesn't want this physical attention or contact
- Consistently exerts power or control over others
- Frequently walks in on children / teens in the bathroom
- Tells dirty or suggestive jokes with children present
- Adults who are more focused on relationships with children than with other adults. For example – spends most of his/her spare time with children rather than adults
- Allows children to get away with inappropriate behaviors – i.e. tells dirty or suggestive jokes
- Pushing for one-on-one time

It is important to keep in mind that sexual abuse does not only occur by an adult but also involves young perpetrators and some research indicates that 40% of abusers are older children. A majority of these children and young people have been sexually abused themselves or are being sexually, physically &/or emotionally abused.