



QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK, TO LEARN MORE ABOUT A PLAY DATE OR SLEEPOVER HOME ENVIRONMENT*

- 1) Who will be in the home when my child is visiting? Will you be in the home the entire time and if not, who will supervise?
 - 2) Are there older children or teenagers living in the home? If so, will the teenager be left to supervise the children?
 - 3) What are your rules for television, internet and video games use?
 - 4) What are the sleeping arrangements?
 - 5) Is there a phone available so my child can call me at any time should they need me?
 - 6) Are there locations in the home that may be off limits?
 - 7) What are bathing and bedtime routines and times?
 - 8) Will you be driving with the children?
 - 9) Do you own any guns? If so, are they in a locked cabinet and inaccessible to the children?
- Adapted from Off Limits. A Parent's Guide to Keeping Kids Safe from Sexual Abuse by Feather Berkower and Sandy K. Wurtele

QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK A CAREGIVER OR SITTER

- 1) Why have you chosen the job of babysitting?
- 2) How long have you been babysitting?
- 3) Do you know CPR or have any other training?
- 4) What type of activities would you do with my children? How would you pass the time with them?
- 5) What if my child told you to keep a secret? If my child asked you to keep a secret about sexual abuse, what would you do? (*Explain that "my child has been taught body rules and body safety, and knows that if he/she is asked to do something which makes him/her feel uncomfortable, he/she has the right to say no"*)

- Once you have hired someone, randomly and unexpectedly show up, so that the caregiver knows that you may return home at any time.

QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK OF YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL, SUMMER CAMP, SPORT LEAGUE, YOUR SERVICE ORGANIZATION (BOY SCOUTS, FAITH-BASED GROUP, ETC.)

- 1) How does the organization screen potential staff and volunteers? *(The organization should use a combination of written applications, personal interviews, and reference checks. Because the vast majority of child sexual abuse goes unreported, people who have sexually abused children will likely pass criminal background checks).*
 - 2) What kind of training do you offer to employees and volunteers about childhood sexual misconduct and its consequence and prevention? *(Ensure the organization has a comprehensive approach to prevent sexual and other forms of child abuse. Are all staff and volunteers trained to recognize warning signs that a fellow employee may be abusing or that a child may be being victimized?)*
 - 3) Does the organization have guidelines that cover (a) the circumstances when adults are allowed to be alone with children, (b) locker room boundaries for youth sports, (c) coach and athlete boundaries for close contact sports training?
 - 4) Is your organization licensed by the state or accredited by an official association?
 - 5) Have any allegations of sexual abuse and/or sexual misconduct ever been filed against any of your employees? If so (a) how was it handled, (b) does that individual still work for your agency?
- Occasionally show up unexpectedly, so that the child's supervisors/coaches/etc. know that you may be on-site at any time and that you are a parent who is involved in their child's life.