



## EFCA Child Protection Code of Conduct

The safety and welfare of children is paramount in EFCA's child protection policies and procedures, which are based on internationally recognized definitions of child abuse. Having a common set of expectations also serves to protect adults who assume the full burden of setting and maintaining appropriate boundaries in all interaction with children.

The EFCA has made a commitment to abide by local law, and where local law is not consistent with the laws of the United States and is more prescriptive or strict than the guidelines here, the local law must be followed.

The most effective way to prevent abuse of children is to be vigilant. This Code of Conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following expectations for EFCA staff, employees, and volunteers.

### **Increase visibility while avoiding isolation**

- Plan activities involving children where other adults are present or in the vicinity and at a time when other activities are occurring.
- Transport children in your car only with parent permission. Avoid, whenever possible, having only one child in your car.

### **Maintain a high level of accountability:**

- Always be accountable to other adults including colleagues, in your interactions with children.
- Help others by pointing out anything that could be misinterpreted.
- Report any situation with a child that made you uncomfortable to your supervisor immediately.

### **Ensure appropriate supervision of children:**

- Maintain balance of power and control among students, so that no child has opportunity to exercise power over others.
- Avoid showing favor or deferential treatment to particular children to the exclusion of others.

### **Maintain healthy affection in relationships with children to whom you are not related:**

- Touch should be in response to the need of the child and not the need of the adult. It should be age-appropriate and initiated by the child. Except for very small children, side hugs, rather than full frontal hugs are best. Resistance from a child to touch must be respected.
- Touch should be open rather than secretive or behind closed doors.
- Verbal interaction should be supportive and appropriate.

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My signature below confirms that I have read and will abide by the EFCA Child Protection Code of Conduct.

Print First and Last Name

Signature

Date