



*Dr. Janet Rosenzweig presents:*  
**A Sex-Wise Parents Guide:**  
**Sexual health and safety checklist for  
child care and summer camp**

- Does the program check the background for all people who have access to children, including maintenance and food services staff as well as the counselors, teachers or volunteers working directly with the kids?
- Does the program check references and work history for all people who have access to children? Never forget that criminal background checks identify only the small groups of abusers who have been reported, caught and convicted.
- If the program uses high school or college students as aides, are these young folks required to participate in pre-service training to learn the rules, values and standards of the program? Are they assigned an experienced supervisor? Remember that young are still developing good judgment and empathy.
- How does the program handle 'hands in the pants' at nap time? Ideally, they let young children sleep peacefully.
- What words do they staff use for genitals when diapering a baby or toddler? Ideally, they use the anatomically correct terms.
- How does the program handle bullying and intimidation? Many young children have to be taught how to be nice to other children.
- If the program includes swimming, has the staff been prepared to deal with children who get embarrassed changing clothes in front of others?
- If there is a focus on sports, are all children encouraged to participate? Is competition kept to a healthy level? Participation is more important than winning for the development of a young child.
- What is the program's policy about discipline? If it consistent with your values?
- Are children supervised as they move about the building or grounds for example to use a rest room?
- Does the program have strong supervision and safety protocols for field trips?
- Can parents observe the day care or camp day? Parents should be required to sign in, and be respectful and not interfere with activities.
- If the children will be picked up by a bus or van, will there be someone other than the driver to provide supervision?
- Does the organization maintain tight control over their vehicles, including requiring all trips to be recorded in a mileage logs? Several years ago, a staff member allegedly sexually abused a child in a child care center's van, and the lack of vehicle logs hindered the investigation!
- If parents drop off the children, do children pass from the parents' supervision directly to a staff member? Is there a safe path to travel when the child leaves the car?
- Does the program maintain a list of people allowed to pick up the child? Parents need to provide the list when they enroll their child and honor the process by not calling with last minute changes that the program can't verify.
- Does the program have all licenses required by the state, county or municipality? Departments of education or human services may license child care centers, departments of health may certify centers or camps; regulations vary by community, so find the expert in your community by contacting the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies at [www.NACCRRRA.org](http://www.NACCRRRA.org)