

## **Role Play Scenarios**

Invite the members of your group to use the information they have learned about child safety and grooming techniques to identify the red flags in the following scenarios. After identifying the red flags, ask them to demonstrate actions they could take as gatekeepers.

### **Scenario 1**

Characters needed: Fifty-year-old man and a fourteen-year-old girl.

Background: Man is a member of the congregation.

Girl is from a well-known family and has been taught to be respectful of adults, maintain eye contact and be helpful.

Share the background information on each character with everyone.

Ask for volunteers for each role.

Ask permission to position the two characters in very close proximity – with little personal space. Acknowledge that this won't be comfortable for either person, but is necessary to illustrate the point.

Instruct the man to speak to the girl and for her to maintain good eye contact as he speaks.

Invite the rest of the training group to consider this scene in a hallway at their church.

Would they be uncomfortable? What makes them uncomfortable? Red flags?

Would they do anything as gatekeepers? What would they do?

Ask those that offer suggestions to become involved in the scene and act out their ideas.

Affirm appropriate responses. Have two or three demonstrate their responses.

Key responses to look for:

- A means to separate the man and the girl such as sending the girl on an errand.
- A means to have a discussion with the man keeping in mind that he could be from a different culture that has a different standard for personal space. If this is the first time this behavior is observed, making an "I statement" about what was seen such as "I was uncomfortable when I saw . . ."
- A means to have a discussion with the girl to see how she felt about the interaction, to affirm that she can be polite and still assertively maintain space with adults, etc. A conversation with the girl's parent may also be appropriate. The idea here is to equip the girl to handle such a situation.
- A means to address the actions of the man if he has engaged in this kind of behavior before. Sharing observations of boundary violations with those in leadership.

### **Scenario 2**

Characters needed: Male or female first grade Sunday school teacher and male or female first grade student

Background: Sunday school teacher is also a well-respected vestry member.

First grade Sunday school student is not related to the teacher.

Share the background information on each character with everyone.

Ask for volunteers for each role.

Position the characters in your training space as though they were in a first-grade class area. If there is a whiteboard in the room, position the first-grade character at the board pretending to draw. Position the teacher close by looking at the artwork.

Ask everyone to imagine the first-grade classroom or space in their own church environment. In this scene, Sunday school has started. Members of the training group are running late and hurrying to drop off their own child in the first-grade class before heading to their own adult class. When they arrive with their child at the classroom, they find this scene, the teacher and one child in the room near the whiteboard.

Would they be uncomfortable? What makes them uncomfortable? Red flags?

Would they do anything as gatekeepers? What would they do?

Ask those that offer suggestions to become involved in the scene and act out their ideas.

Affirm appropriate responses. Have two or three demonstrate their responses.

Key responses to look for:

- A means to honor the two-adult rule
- A means to remind the teacher/vestry member of the rule
- A means to remind their own child that two adults are “the rule” for each class.

Did the fact that this was a well-respected vestry member make it harder to speak up?

What if this scenario had involved a sixth-grade student and the youth pastor alone in the youth area? Or a clergy member and an acolyte alone in the vesting room?

Remind all that the same principle applies throughout: two adults at all times in all places. Should their observations be shared with someone in leadership? Absolutely! They were uncomfortable with what they saw and each was a policy violation.

Give your training group permission to report and encourage them to be watchful.

They are commissioned gatekeepers.