

VAUGHAN GYMNASTICS LEADER TRAINING ON DETECTION

POLICY STATEMENT

Vaughan Gymnastics is committed to protecting children from abuse, and is obligated by law under the applicable Child and Family services protection legislation, to report cases of suspected abuse. All leaders who work with children are trained on how to detect and report suspected cases of child abuse. Leaders are also trained on how to handle a child's disclosure of abuse. Vaughn Gymnastics will support leaders in understanding and fulfilling their obligations for reporting disclosures of suspected abuse.

PURPOSE

To ensure that all staff understand their obligation to protect children from abuse, know what their role is when abuse is disclosed, witnessed or suspected, and are informed about the supports available to them in such cases.

PROCEDURE

A) The Process

Develop procedures for internal and external reporting of suspected child abuse, and for dealing with abuse in accordance with the requirements of the local child welfare agency and the provincial Child and Family services act. Train all staff on detecting, reporting and handling disclosures of child abuse. At minimum training should include:

- The moral and legal obligation of all staff to report disclosures of abuse or suspicions of abuse under the applicable Child and Family services protection legislation, and the consequences of not reporting.

- The role leaders can play in helping prevent further abuse.

- The various types of abusers and how to detect them.

- How to listen to a child's disclosure with compassion and without judgement.

- How to gather information from the child without asking questions that are leading or will influence the child's responses or perceptions.

- Knowledge of the procedures for reporting and documenting child abuse, and for filing all related documents.

-The role of the leader in reporting suspicions of abuse, as opposed to his/her being responsible for proving that abuse occurred.

-The role of the supervisor, and the support systems available to leaders during a reporting process.

-The importance of maintaining confidentiality during the disclosure and reporting process.

-How to deal with a suspected abuser, including a parent.

-The ongoing role of the leader when working with and supporting an abused child.

-The phone numbers of appropriate agencies.

-Supervisors should review personnel files periodically to ensure leaders meet all training requirements.

B) Evidence

-Leaders receive training on detecting, reporting and handling disclosures of child abuse.

C) Communication

-All staff related to the provision of recreation, sport or child care in the organization should be aware of this policy and all related implications.

-This policy should be contained in leader training materials, and all leaders and staff must attend training specific to the detection and reporting of child abuse.

D) Policy Support

Leaders often have many questions around the sensitive and disturbing topic of child abuse. Some possible questions include:

-What will happen to the child?

-Will he / she be removed from the family?

-What do I do if I suspect that the abuse is continuing after a report has been filed?

-How will I be protected if I submit a report and the alleged abuser finds out?

-Will I need to testify in court?

-Will the abuser be charged with a criminal offence?