



## A Summer of Happy Memories

**Keeping Kids Safe This Summer** **Summer 2008**

Greetings!

Summer offers kids a rich mix of down time and possibilities for exploring new experiences. A little forethought by adults can help make sure they will be safe whatever their adventures.

**Think of summer safety as a joint effort for the "in-charge" adults.** Whether the setting is overnight camp, a day program at the park, or the neighborhood gathering spots, awareness and a willingness to speak up are the best ways to make sure everyone is on the same page about sexual safety.

**Read on for some resources** ... and to learn about what two of our donors have done to support this work.

Have a great summer!

### Summer Camp Safety



Most camps and summer recreation programs already know about the need to be proactive about safety, both in screening staff and in setting sound policies for supervision during the course of the day or night.

Don't be shy about asking questions. Successful program administrators understand that knowing the lay of the land is just "good parenting."

Find out how you can work with them to boost their program's reputation for keeping kids safe. If safety isn't high on their priority list, make new plans.

To learn more about what questions to ask and how to guide your kids, check out **our Summer Camp Safety tip sheet**.


[Read more ...](#)

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### Policies for youth-serving organizations

Here are some resources that can help you understand what steps youth-serving organizations can take to keep kids safe. Share these resource with every organization you know of that works with kids.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidebook, **Preventing Child Sexual Abuse within Youth-serving Organizations**, helps groups get started with policies to keep kids safe.



Read more: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/dvp/preventingchildabuse.htm>



The Non-Profit Risk Management Center (<http://nonprofitrisk.org/>) is another valuable resource for youth-serving organizations committed to safety. **The Season of Hope: A Risk Management Guide for Youth Serving Nonprofits**, tackles a range of questions from youth-serving organizations about protecting children, whether they are program participants, employees or volunteers.

Read more: <http://nonprofitrisk.org/store/season-of-hope.shtml>

*Respect should be a part of every family's summer activities*

- whether kids are at camp, at the beach or in the back yard. For tips about creating safe, respectful environments for kids, see Stop It Now! guidebooks:

- "Prevent Child Sexual Abuse" [http://stopitnow.org/downloads/Prevent\\_CSA.pdf](http://stopitnow.org/downloads/Prevent_CSA.pdf)
- "Do Children Sexually Abuse Other Children?" [http://stopitnow.org/downloads/Do\\_Children\\_Abuse.pdf](http://stopitnow.org/downloads/Do_Children_Abuse.pdf)

*Remember, preventing child sexual abuse is in everybody's best interest.*

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## Summertime and the Livin's Easy

"Hangin' out" is an important part of growing up, especially in an era of fully-scheduled days. Unstructured time gives kids a chance to socialize, test their independence, and hear and explore new ideas. Whether kids are on a family outing or just relaxing with friends, adults can play an important role influencing the tone and content of those less-planned moments, and how kids interpret and make choices about what they discover.

**Common Sense Media** <http://www.commonsensemedia.org/> is a handy tool for adults who want to talk with kids about which of the latest movies, songs, or video games are appropriate. Reviews from Common Sense staff, interested adults and kids analyze the content and give a range of perspectives about age appropriateness, sexual and violence content and suggestions for how to discuss concerning elements in a variety of entertainment mediums. Detailed information makes for a more productive conversation about which rules are firm and which limits can be opened for negotiation. Why not write a media review together with a child in your life?

Involved Dads have a great opportunity to set a standard of safety for their sons and daughters by modeling respect and good boundaries in all their interactions. Summer is a great time for fathers to step up to their commitment to being a strong positive influence in kids' lives. *The Dads and Daughters Togetherness Guide* <http://dadsanddaughters.org/booklist/book1/index.html>, by **Dads and Daughters** founder Joe Kelley, is packed with fun and imaginative ways to spend time together, building trust, self esteem and lifelong bonds. While focused on girls, many of the ideas will hold great appeal for boys as well.

**The Internet** offers many resources and activities to enrich any vacation, but also can pose risks for anyone with lots of time on their hands. If you have concerns about your own or someone else's activities online, our "*Keeping Adults and Children Safe" on the Internet* resource guide [http://stopitnow.org/downloads/Internet\\_Resources.pdf](http://stopitnow.org/downloads/Internet_Resources.pdf) provides a variety of links to publications and valuable guidance for next steps towards safety and abuse prevention.

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## Birthday party funds prevention

Who says prevention has to be all hard work? One Stop It Now! supporter recently raised \$700 from a group of friends she invited to help celebrate her birthday. She hosted a kid-themed party for adults - complete with a bounce house. Rather than presents, she asked each friend to make a contribution to Stop It Now!'s prevention efforts.

Her friends contributed an impressive \$700, which was doubled to \$1,400 under a dollar-for-dollar matching grant from an anonymous Stop It Now! donor. **The matching grant is available until June**

30, 2008.

Besides a fun party, the event enabled the birthday hostess to educate her friends about the possibility of preventing sexual abuse and to let the people close to her know why she cares about the issue -- meaningful gifts for everyone involved.

[Make a donation to Stop It Now!](#)



## Our supporters spread the word

Getting the right information in the right hands is key to spreading the prevention message

Over the past 10 years, participants in Stop It Now!'s telephone surveys have consistently identified doctor's offices as a place they'd be open to receiving information about preventing child sexual abuse.

Medical practitioners are in an ideal position, both to educate families about prevention and to help steer families to crucial resources when problems or concerns arise.

**A local donor recently provided funds to send copies of Stop It Now! prevention guidebooks to pediatricians and family practitioners** in Hampshire County, Massachusetts, where Stop It Now!'s national office is located. Each of 60 doctors received copies of "*Prevent Child Sexual Abuse*" and of "*Do Children Sexually Abuse Other Children*," and a stack of Helpline brochures. The guidebooks offer clear, positive discussions about actions adults can take to prevent abuse before it starts. Consider providing doctors in your community this valuable prevention material.

To order multiple copies: Download and fill out an order form (<http://stopitnow.org/downloads/orderform.pdf>) - and mail, fax or phone in your order to Safer Society Foundation Press, 802.247.3132.

[Get sample copies](#)

*"I've been reading all the articles on 'How to Spot a Pedophile' and never got anywhere with that, and when I found your site I got more than I needed to be able to understand what was going on."*

**- Anonymous parent calling the Helpline**



## Best in America

Since 2006, Stop It Now! has displayed the **Independent Charities of America (ICA)** Seal of Excellence. This indicates that Stop It Now! has undergone a rigorous independent review to certify, document, and demonstrate that it meets the highest standards of public accountability, and program and cost effectiveness.

Of the million charitable organizations operating in the U.S., Stop It Now! is one of fewer than 2,000 that have been awarded the ICA Seal.

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