

Sample Scripts for Role Plays

1. Set the tone: shared responsibility and accountability

- I know we both really care about the children here at _____ (*our program/school/foster agency/residential home*).
- I can tell how much you love _____ (*child*) and I know _____ (*he/she/they*) love you too!
- It's clear to me that we both want what's best for the children in our lives that we care about.
- It seems like you care about my child, and I want to talk with you so that we both get on the same page about _____ (*his/her/their*) wellbeing.

2. Be honest and genuine

- Bringing this up is really difficult for me, but it's also important. I wouldn't share this with you if this didn't feel necessary.
- I've spent a lot of time thinking over how I wanted to word this, and honestly, I'm really worried because I don't want to offend you.
- Oh gosh – I'm nervous! This is not something I feel comfortable talking about, but I wanted to have this important discussion with you because I really care about you, our relationship together, and _____ (*child*).
- I don't know how to word this, and this feels awkward because I don't know you very well, but it's important because it involves _____'s (*child's*) safety.

3. Describe the behavior (and why it's not okay)

- The other day I saw you _____ (*behavior*), and that's not okay. It can give _____ (*child*) a really unsafe message about how the adults they look up to should be treating them. What if someone else – someone with harmful intentions – did _____ (*behavior*), then they may not understand that this isn't appropriate because this has been normalized as okay. Instead we want _____ (*child*) to always speak up if someone is doing something like this with them.
- I feel _____ (*emotion*) when you _____ (*behavior*) with/around _____ (*child*). What you're doing is actually crossing boundaries. What if another adult were to do that around them – we want to make sure that _____ (*child*) understands that this type of behavior isn't safe.
- It's not safe for you to do _____ (*behavior*) with youth.
- I noticed that you _____ (*behavior*) with _____ (*child*), and I want to be clear that what you're doing crosses boundaries.

4. State what you want (and consider offering alternatives)

- I'm asking that you don't do _____ (*behavior*) because it's against our _____ (*program rules/safety plan*). I'm wondering if there are other ways you can _____ (*behavior*, for example - show affection to a child that doesn't violate their boundaries and respects their "no").
- It sounds like you wanted to joke around, but making sexualized comments about a young child is against our family's safety plan. We never use adult-like language or mature jokes around children in our family.
- I hear that you're looking to do something nice, but we don't single one child out in this day camp. We actually have a rule here that asks all adults to treat children equally, so we give any "special treats" to all kids out in the open.
- It seems like you are looking to connect with this 13 year-old, but it's vital for us to be giving kids healthy messages about how adults should be interacting with them. I saw that our religious institution has a set of guidelines that talks about how adults – including faith leaders – should interact with youth, and it says that doors should stay open or that there should always be two adults with one child – meaning that one child should never be alone with one adult. I'm asking that you follow that policy and either keep the doors open when you meet with this teen or have another adult with you when you're speaking to them.

5. Set boundaries

- I am talking to you about this because I want you to be involved in keeping _____ (*child*) safe. Please follow our _____ (*program policy/safety plan rule*) about _____ (*describe rule/guideline/policy*).
- It's important that you _____ (*state rule from safety plan or program policy*).
- I'm asking that you follow this _____ (*program policy/safety plan rule*) about _____ (*describe rule/guideline/policy*). If this happens again I will need to follow up by _____ (*further boundary-setting/additional involvement of supervisors/other action steps*).
- It sets a good example for _____ (*child*) when everyone is on the same page about healthy behavior, so that's why I'm sharing all this with you. Next time I'd like you to remember and respect our _____ (*program policy/safety plan rule*) about _____ (*describe rule/guideline/policy*).