

Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect Training for Camp Counselors

ABUSE SCENARIOS



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Sexual Abuse

Potential Child Abuse Scenarios



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Sexual Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

As a camp counselor, you witness one of your peers being overly touchy feely with the campers.

- **What are the reasons that this situation is a problem?**
- **What should you do immediately?**
- **Is this something you can just take care of yourself?**



Sexual Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

In a discussion with a few campers in your cabin, one of the girls states that she was touched inappropriately by a family member. She says it in passing, not really giving much detail. The other kids don't really know how to react so they just go on talking about something else.

- What are three things you must do?**
- What are important things to share when retelling this story to the camp director?**
- What is the best way to handle this for the other campers in your cabin who heard the camper make the statement?**



Sexual Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

You see a male camp staff member giving a long back massage to a female camp counselor during down time.

- **Does it matter whether the camp counselor looks comfortable or not?**
- **Does it matter if this is out in the open with a bunch of people around or not?**
- **What are reasons this situation is a problem?**



Sexual Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

At night in your cabin, your campers begin talking about some of the other campers and counselors that they would like to dance with at the upcoming dance. One of the campers begins talking about one of the other campers in a sexual way. Some of the things that the camper is talking about seem very advanced for a junior high camper.

- What are three things you should do in that moment?**
- What are three things you shouldn't do?**
- Who is it appropriate to tell about this conversation?**



Sexual Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

A female camper comes to you during camp and says that a male camper is pushing himself on her even though she has asked him repeatedly to stop.

- **What is your immediate action towards the male camper?**
- **Who is acceptable to tell about the conversation you had with the female camper? Who are people it is not acceptable to tell?**
- **What are the first things you say to the female camper?**



Physical Abuse

Potential Child Abuse Scenarios



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Physical Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

On the way to the pool, you notice several bruises on the back of one of your campers. One bruise has a distinct shape that seems odd to you.

- **What are important details to pay attention to and tell the camp director?**
- **What conversation (if any) should you have with this camper?**
- **What should you not do?**



Physical Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

While playing a game with pool noodles, one camper becomes very aggressive and begins forcefully hitting another camper with the pool noodle.

- **What specific language and action would you use to stop the game?**
- **Is stopping the situation enough?**
- **What are things you need to consider when reflecting on the situation? What do you need to consider for the rest of the camp?**



Physical Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

While packing up to go home, one of your campers tells you a story about getting beaten up after school every day and his brother often steps in save him. He is dreading leaving camp and is worried about going back to school in the fall.

- **What are things you should and should not say?**
- **What do you do next?**
- **What are other factors you need to consider when reacting?**



Physical Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

In your cabin, one of your campers tells a story about his sister hitting him at home.

- **What are things you should and should not say?**
- **What is important to tell the camp director?**
- **What should you do if his sister is at camp?**



Emotional Abuse

Potential Child Abuse Scenarios



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Emotional Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

During your group meetings, several of the campers are misbehaving (being loud, not listening and goofing off). One of the other counselors takes them off to the side and begins yelling at them very loudly and aggressively. The campers are being belittled and made fun of in this reprimand.

- **What action should you take? What words do you use?**
- **Is this something you can handle on your own?**
- **What are acceptable ways to handle the misbehavior?**



Emotional Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

During various camp activities, you notice that one particular group of campers is being very mean to another camper. They make fun of her a lot in front of others, won't include her in their group and put her down constantly.

- **What action should you take? What words do you use?**
- **Is this something you can handle on your own?**
- **What are positive ways you can use your influence as a camp counselor to impact the way this camper is treated?**



Emotional Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

Some of the veteran kids in your cabin decide to initiate the first year campers. They want to have them drink a strange concoction as well as perform some other stunts that will make them look silly. It seems like it would all be in good fun and no one should get hurt.

- **How do stunts like this impact the camp environment?**
- **What action should you take? Does it matter if it seems like everyone is okay with it?**
- **What are some ways to proactively handle the veteran/first-timer cabin dynamics?**



Emotional Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

At your camp closing ceremony, you do an activity where everyone shares positive compliments about one another. One of your campers starts crying. When you attempt to console him he says, “No one has ever said nice things like this about me before.”

- **What factors do you consider in your response?**
- **Is this something you can handle on your own?**
- **Why are activities like this positive? What can make them challenging?**



Neglect

Potential Child Abuse Scenarios



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Neglect Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

You see a camper at your table secretly wrapping food up and put it in their pockets several days.

- **What are other things to consider before reacting?**
- **What immediate action do you take?**
- **Who is it acceptable to tell?**



Neglect Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

All the campers have been picked up from camp except one girl from your cabin. She tells you “It’s okay, this happens all the time.”

- **How do you respond to that statement?**
- **What should you do while you wait?**
- **Who should you tell about this comment?**



Neglect Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

You discover that one of the kids in your cabin is not taking showers at camp and does not change their clothes regularly. They seemed to have a strange smell when they arrived at camp and it is getting worse as the week goes on.

- What are factors you need to consider when assessing the situation?**
- What action do you take? What words do you use to handle the situation?**
- How do you help the other campers deal with the situation?**



Neglect Abuse Scenario

Explain in detail how you would react to the following situation:

You find a bunch of leftover camp food spilling out of a camper's bag in your cabin.

- **What are other things to consider before reacting?**
- **What immediate action do you take?**
- **Who is it acceptable to tell?**

