

Rules for safe interaction with children

STANDARDY
OCHRONY



EMPOWERING
CHILDREN
FOUNDATION

DO



1. Be patient and respectful in your communication with children, understanding that children affected by war trauma may display fear, anger, indifference and express other difficult emotions arising from their experiences.
2. Listen carefully to children and give them answers that are appropriate to their age and the situation. When communicating with children, try to keep your face at the same level as the child's.
3. Assure children that if they feel uncomfortable with a situation, behaviour or words, they can tell you or a designated person (see Principle 2 – undertaking interventions) and can expect an appropriate response and/or support.
4. Value and respect children's contribution to the activities undertaken, actively involve them and treat them equally regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, ability/disability, social, ethnic, cultural, religious status and world view. Avoid favouritism in dealing with children.
5. When making decisions about a child, inform the child about these and try to take his/her expectations into account.
6. Ensure that you are within sight or hearing of other staff and volunteers when you are carrying out activities with children. In exceptional and justifiable situations where you need to be alone with a child, always notify other staff and volunteers and let them know exactly where you will be with the child.
7. Respect the child's right to privacy. If it is necessary to waive confidentiality to protect a child, explain this to the child as soon as possible.
8. Avoid unnecessary risks. When working with children, make sure that equipment and facilities are used as intended and that the environment is safe (pay attention to securing windows and stairs, restricted access to busy roads, to open water, etc.).

DON'T



1. You must not shout at, embarrass, humiliate, belittle or insult a child.
2. You must not hit, poke, push or in any way violate the physical integrity of a child.
3. You must not enter into any romantic or sexual relationship with a child, or make inappropriate proposals to them. This includes sexually explicit comments, jokes, gestures and sharing erotic and pornographic content with a child, in whatever form.
4. You must not record a child's image (filming, voice recording, photographing). This also applies to allowing third parties to record images of children.
5. You must not invite children to your private apartment/home or meet with them outside of working hours. This includes contacting children through private communication channels (private phone, email, instant messaging, social media profiles) and sharing your own personal information.
6. You must not offer alcohol, tobacco products or illegal substances to children or use them in the presence of children.
7. You must not engage in anything other than essential physical contact with a child. This includes helping a child dress and undress, eat, wash, change, use the toilet and sleeping with a child in the same bed or room. Make sure that someone from the organisation/institution assists you in each of these activities. If nursing and hygienic care of children is your responsibility, you will be trained in this.
8. If you witness any of the above behaviour and/or situations from other adults or children, always inform the person in charge of the organisation/institution and/or follow the intervention procedure in force

More information: standardy.fdds.pl

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