

## 10 Ways Organizations Can Create Child Safety

Children deserve to be safe, no matter where they are. Organizations can play a vital role in creating child-safe environments by implementing the following 10 steps:

1. Establish child safety as a core value. Make it clear that child safety is a top priority for your organization and that you are committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for all children.
2. Develop and implement child protection policies and procedures. Your policies and procedures should outline the organization's commitment to child safety, as well as the steps that will be taken to prevent, identify, and respond to child abuse and neglect.
3. Provide training on child safety to all staff and volunteers. This training should cover the organization's child protection policies and procedures, as well as the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect.
4. Create a culture of open communication and trust. Children should feel comfortable coming forward if they have been abused or neglected. This means creating an environment where children feel safe and respected, and where they know that they will be believed.
5. Screen all staff and volunteers. This screening should include a criminal background check and a review of references.
6. Conduct regular background checks on all staff and volunteers. This will help to ensure that the organization is taking steps to protect children from individuals who may pose a risk.
7. Supervise children closely. This means having enough staff on hand to provide adequate supervision and ensuring that children are never left alone with someone who is not authorized to supervise them.
8. Create a safe physical environment. This means making sure that the organization's facilities are free from hazards, and that there are clear policies and procedures in place for responding to emergencies.
9. Listen to children. Children should be encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings, and their concerns should be taken seriously.
10. Report suspected child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities. This is essential to ensure that children who have been abused or neglected receive the help they need.

By following these steps, organizations can help to create child-safe environments where all children can thrive.

### Additional Resources

- National Child Abuse Hotline: <https://www.childhelp.org/hotline/>
- Prevent Child Abuse America: <https://www.preventchildabuse.org/>
- The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN): <https://www.rainn.org/>

