

Recommended Guidelines for Interacting with Minors

- Avoid any physical contact with minors that could be misinterpreted; back rubs, massages, tickling, rough-house play, and caressing or intimate touching is inappropriate and unacceptable.
- Do not take photographs of children for personal use.
- If staff is given photographs of children, do not post them on social networking sites or publish them in any other form. Families should give written consent to a program/activity operator before any photographs of their child can be used or published publically.
- If it is necessary to take a minor aside for a private conversation relating to behavior or some other issue s/he wants to discuss, do so in full view of other people, or in the presence of a second adult. If you hold office hours, leave the door open when you are meeting with a minor in your office.
- During conversation, avoid disclosing intimate information about yourself or seek to learn intimate information about the minor, particularly about sexual behavior.
- Use words with care: never berate, harass, intimidate, degrade, or belittle a child.
- Issue praise appropriately, and avoid excessive praise or criticism of any minor
- Do not tell sexually-oriented or off-color jokes to or in the presence of minors.
- Remember that young children interpret information in concrete ways and typically do not understand idioms or abstract language. Using concrete language will help to avoid any misinterpretations or confusion on the part of the minor.
- **Report all instances of suspect child abuse or neglect.** Report to your immediate supervisor or program director, AND submit a report to BUPD. The reporting form can be found here: <http://www.bu.edu/safety/protecting-minors/reporting/>. Mandated reporters include:
 - Any University faculty, staff, student, or volunteer participating in a University activity
 - Any owner/operator, employee, volunteer, or agent of a third-party program
 - Campus security authorities, under the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act
 - Minors program coordinators
 - Title IX coordinator and deputy coordinators

Warning Signs of Abuse

Physical Abuse

- Bruising, welts, or burns that cannot be explained
- Withdrawn, fearful or extreme behavior
- Injuries where children do not usually get injured (i.e., torso, back, neck, buttocks, thighs)

Sexual Abuse

- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Pain or itching in genital area
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- Frequent complaints of stomachaches or headaches
- Feeling threatened by physical contact
- Inappropriate sex play or premature understanding of sex
- Frequent urinary or yeast infections

Emotional Injury

- Speech disorders
- Inability to play as most children do
- Sleeping problems
- Anti-social behavior or behavioral extremes
- Delays in emotional and intellectual growth

Neglect

- Lack of medical or dental care
- Chronically dirty or unbathed
- Lack of proper nutrition
- Lack of adequate shelter
- Self-destructive feelings or behavior
- Alcohol or drug use