

BYSTANDERS PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM BOUNDARY VIOLATIONS AND SEXUAL ABUSE

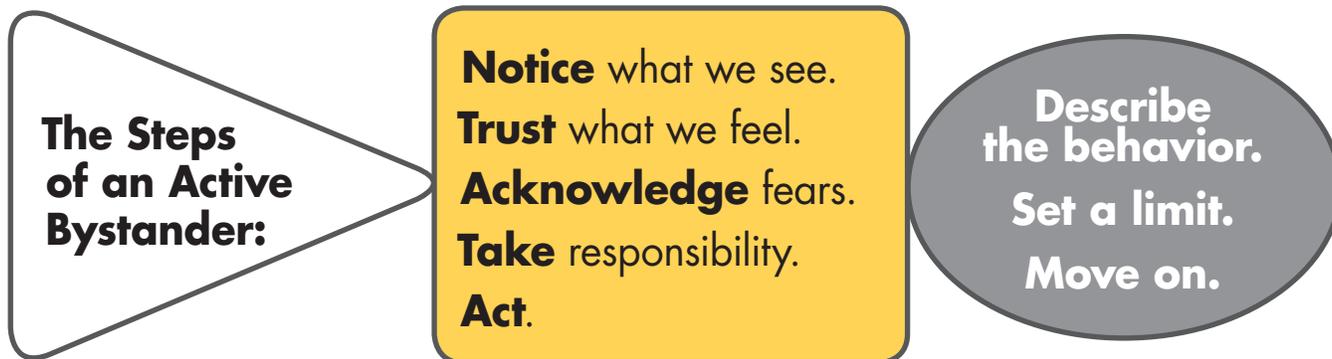
A bystander is a person who is not directly involved in an interaction, but

- Senses something is unsafe.
- Witnesses a boundary violation or a vulnerable situation for a child.

“I will claim responsibility for this child’s wellbeing, in this situation.”

RISKY BEHAVIORS

- Excessive touching and blurring touching boundaries
- Building/gaining trust
- Giving gifts and rewards
- Giving special attention
- Manipulating surrounding adults
- Breaking rules and pressing boundaries
- Focused intensely on children
- Seeking isolation and one-on-one contact
- Private communication through social media
- Overly eager for children’s affection
- Taking photos or videos of an individual child, especially in youth serving settings



Spontaneous Intervention:

1. Describe the problematic behavior.
2. Set a limit that reinforces the child’s boundaries.
3. Move on to the solution.

Planned Intervention:

1. Protect yourself and the child from violence.
2. Seek support from others if needed.
3. Express caring or appreciation.
4. Describe the problematic behavior(s).
5. Set a limit that reinforces the child’s boundaries.
6. Move on to the solution.
 - a. Communicate with others who need to understand the new boundaries.
 - b. Write down the intervention, how it was received, the boundaries that were set, the agreements you made.
 - c. Share with the child and other adults the boundaries you’ve set.
7. Revisit and review with those involved.

“I care about you and my child.”

“When you (describe the behavior), it makes me uncomfortable.”

“These are the boundaries I need for (child).”

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1. What is an active bystander?

2. Why is bystander action a key to preventing child sexual abuse?

3. What inner feelings are necessary to be an active bystander?

4. Share or write down 2 risky behaviors or boundary violations you might see, or have seen, by an adult or youth toward a child. Choose one that could happen in a family setting. Choose another that could happen in a youth serving setting. Answer the following for each example.

1. Would you make a spontaneous or planned intervention, and why?
2. Discuss or write some notes about how you would speak to the person using the framework:
 - a. Describe the behavior
 - b. Set a limit
 - c. Move on

5. How do active bystanders impact the people around them?

6. What is your commitment to being an active bystander?

MORE TRAINING & RESOURCES

Stewards of Children is a prevention and response training for youth serving organizations, parents, and caregivers. Facilitator-led or Online. Learn more at www.D2L.org/stewards

For more information on sexual development and behavior and sexual behavior problems in children visit www.nctsn.org

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- Talking with Children about Safety From Sexual Abuse
- Healthy Touch for Children and Youth
- Bystanders Protecting Children
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Learn more at www.D2L.org/training

Sign up for ongoing information about child sexual abuse prevention at www.D2L.org/join