

Safe Place

Thank you for joining Kids in Crisis and Safe Place in helping children throughout our area. With your help, we will be able to provide immediate assistance to any child in your town who need a place to turn for any type of crisis help. Here are some fast facts about Kids in Crisis and Safe Place:

What is Safe Place?

Safe Place is a national program, introduced in 1983, designed to reach out to youth who find themselves in crisis situations – everything from family problems to abuse, from bullying to stranger danger – that require immediate help.

How does it work?

It's simple. Your organization or company prominently displays a pre-printed Safe Place sign in a visible location. When a child enters your location, you quickly assess the situation and call Kids in Crisis for round-the-clock professional help (see other side for specific steps).

What kind of problems might we have to deal with?

Children who are fighting with their peers or families and feel the situation has escalated beyond their control; youth who are experiencing abuse or neglect; children who have been followed or threatened; children who feel they have no where to turn for a wide range of issues.

How is Kids in Crisis involved in Safe Place?

Since 1978, Kids in Crisis has provided free, round-the clock professional emergency counseling services to children and their families. Kids in Crisis offers immediate help to those in need. When you call for help in a situation, staff at Kids in Crisis will be the voice on the other end of the phone, assessing the situation and providing immediate steps to address the crisis.

Why is my organization involved in Safe Place?

For kids, Safe Place provides piece of mind, knowing they have someone to turn to for help. For area businesses and organizations, becoming a Safe Place location is a critical community service, providing assistance to neighbors in need. The Safe Place program encourages public private partnerships to provide youth outreach, helping kids solve problems effectively, while focusing on preventing more serious problems.

When do we start the Safe Place program?

Kids in Crisis will kick off the Safe Place program in Fairfield County beginning March 17, 2008.



What to do when help is needed:

Any youth asking the following questions may be looking for help:

Is this a Safe Place?

Can you help me?

What does that sign mean?

A child may not ask for help immediately but instead just stand around and wait for you to speak first.

1. Begin by asking what may be wrong. Ask if he/she came in to your location because it is a Safe Place.
2. Do not go into detail about the problem. Show the youth where to sit, telling them you will immediately call Kids in Crisis, the Safe Place support agency.
3. Call Kids in Crisis at **203-327-KIDS**. Tell the person answering the phone you are calling from a Safe Place site. Identify yourself, give your location (including address and phone number). Give the youth's name (if you have it) Kids in Crisis will immediately call you back, telling you the name of the staff member who will come and meet with the youth at your location.
4. Tell the youth someone will be there shortly. Make sure the youth waits in the designated area pre-determined during the initial site orientation. Offer something to eat or drink, if possible. Check on the youth every few minutes, showing support without getting into the specifics of the situation.
5. When the Kids in Crisis staff arrives, ask to see his/her Kids in Crisis identification. This ID will confirm it is the person Kids in Crisis was sending to address the situation. If there is any discrepancy, please call Kids in Crisis immediately. Do not allow the youth to meet or go with anyone who has not been verified.
6. Take pride in the fact that you have helped a child in need and provided a safe haven for help.



Thank you for your concern and assistance!