

CREATE A POLICY OF “SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING”

Cultivating an environment of "see something, say something" at an event can be a powerful tool. Set a policy to ensure that everyone's voices—adults and children alike—are respected when it comes to the safety and well-being of all participants. Empowering people to speak up encourages everyone to contribute to safety-focused environments.

Use the following suggestions to equip event staff, students, and volunteers to speak up if they witness unsafe situations, including suspicious or concerning behavior.

Communications

Clearly communicate your policy everywhere, including but not limited to your website, registration materials, staff meetings, and worker contracts. Use signage around your event space to encourage awareness and reporting—everyone's vigilance matters.

Clear pathways

Create a clear pathway for people to make a report. This might be a dedicated phone number/hotline, email address, or an online form made available via QR codes on posters throughout the event space. Include reminders that reports may be made anonymously and that privacy will be respected. Empowering people to speak up means they must feel safe to do so.

Policy discussions

Include policy discussions in your staff training. Discuss examples of what constitutes making a report and what the process entails.

Designate a role

Have a trusted onsite staff member as the responsible party for fielding reports. Make sure this person is easily identifiable, and ensure they have the training needed to elevate certain types of concerns to the authorities, including local law enforcement or child protective services.

Sources:

[YPAD™ Education](#)

[U.S. Center for SafeSport](#)