



HANDS &  
VOICES



GUIDE BY  
YOUR SIDE™

## Chapter Checklist for Safety and Success for OUR Children

Congratulations on agreeing to take these important steps in assisting parents of D/hh children in your region to learn and teach safety knowledge and skills to their children. We firmly believe that parents, children, and professionals can learn simple techniques to learn key components of safety skills when dealing with other people, but it takes a concerted focus on developmental learning and practice. That effort starts now in these manageable steps.

1. **Designate** two members to serve as the OUR Project team: Board, staff, or committed volunteer members of the chapter.
2. **Connect** with [Janet@handsandvoices.org](mailto:Janet@handsandvoices.org) to join the monthly teleconference call for your ongoing support and inspiration. Generally these occur on the second Monday of the month at 10 am EST through a conference call. D/HH members can call in through videorelay or captioning services.
3. **Plan** a board or staff meeting to share background information on the OUR Project. Harold Johnson is available for Oovoo or SKYPE calls to support this effort. Irene van der Zande at Kidpower can also arrange trainings. At a minimum, share and discuss the most recent three presentations for background information. <http://deafed-childabuse-neglect-col.wiki.educ.msu.edu/Presentations>
4. **Prepare** further by watching this short video about how and when to bring up the topic of safety at a meeting: <http://deafed-childabuse-neglect-col.wiki.educ.msu.edu/Bright+Spot+-+Janet+DesGeorges> and **Read this guide** outlining how to respond to potential disclosures of maltreatment at a meeting. If you are prepared, it will go more smoothly. [Gennie Stults - Disclosures of Child Abuse.pdf](#) from the National Exchange Club Foundation.
5. **Give each other permission** and space to be reluctant, sad, angry, overwhelmed, disgusted as needed. ... Then give yourselves further permission for joy. You can out of the topic and on to other work, recreation, and recharging. Seek balance.
6. **Discuss** the Safety Attachment form as a team to become familiar with each item. ([link](#)) You'll note that the goals relate to all areas of achievement; this document goes beyond maltreatment.
7. **Share** the Safety Attachment with new families and families in transition to new schools, or those with existing concerns about building social skills, bullying, neglect or abuse. Model its use.
8. **Ask parents to report** back on discussions and outcomes of using the document at their school meetings at ([wiki link – I saw this but couldn't find my way back to it... !](#))
9. **Continue to ask** “what can we do by next Tuesday?” or at least prior to the next conference call to further this work. The old proverb is...”How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.”