

Child Protection Policy

Vine and Branches Porter County Homeschool Co-op

1. All adult volunteers who attend Wednesday morning co-op activities must successfully complete a background check before participating. We repeat these background checks every 3 years. This policy is in place to protect the safety and well-being of all children and families. Individuals who do not pass the background check will not be permitted to serve at co-op.
2. At no time should an adult be alone with a single child who is not their own. This does not include walking a child to the restroom in a public hallway. Volunteers must ensure that at least two adults are present with one child, or that multiple children are present with one adult, to maintain a safe and supervised environment. Each classroom has one teacher and one assistant.
3. If you are taking kids outside for any reason, let the leadership team know ahead of time.
4. Children must be supervised at all times; no exceptions.
5. Adults should never be alone with a child who they are not the parent or guardian of.
6. Adults should not make promises of confidentiality to any children.
7. No weapons of any kind (knives, guns, swords, etc.) are permitted in student possession.
8. Indiana is a mandatory reporting state; anyone who suspects a child has been neglected or abused must by state law make a report.
9. More information on abuse reporting can be found here on the [DCS Hotline Website](#)
10. Definitions for abuse and neglect can be found at "[What is child abuse and neglect](#)"
11. Anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies can be found in our members' handbook.