



## PROGRAM SAFETY

# COMMUNICATION TOOL FOR PARENTS

Every child should feel safe! Providing children with a safe environment in which to learn and play while offering consistent messages about safety will help them gain the skills they need to act responsibly throughout their lives.

The Active and Safe After School Initiative has developed a series of tools to raise awareness about safety in after school, recreation-based programs. Developed with parents/guardians in mind, this Safety Communication Tool for Parents as well as the Program Safety Checklist and Safety Guide for Parents will help families assess program safety and reinforce important safety messages at home. For more information on the Active and Safe After School Initiative resources please visit [www.phecanada.ca/safeafterschool.ca](http://www.phecanada.ca/safeafterschool.ca)

### HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM SAFETY CHECKLIST:

This Safety Communication Tool is designed to help parents/guardians talk with their child(ren) about staying safe in a recreation-based after school program. This is not a comprehensive list, but will act as a starting point for discussions. Always keep discussions at an age-appropriate level. Ask children open ended questions that require more than a yes or no answer. If you are concerned about any of the answers, discuss them with the program supervisor or director immediately.

### GENERAL FEELING OF SECURITY:

- What types of things make you feel safe in your after school program?
- What types of things make you feel unsafe in your after school program?
- Have you ever felt scared at your after school program? Why?
- Can you tell me about the things you have learned about being safe at your after school program and at home?

### PROGRAM SAFETY PROCEDURES:

- Who did you walk to the washroom with today? Were you ever alone?
- What did you have for snack and how did they serve it to you?
- Do you know what to do if there is an emergency at your after school program?
- Are there any safety practices at your after school program that you think we could do at home?

### INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN AND PROGRAM LEADERS:

- When you ask your program leader a question, do they listen to you and help you?
- Have you ever felt bullied? If so, what happened?
- Have you ever seen anyone else being bullied? Did your program leaders get involved and stop the bullying?



Please share the feedback you get from your child(ren), both positive and negative, with the program leader. Be sure to address any issues with your program leader immediately.

*This checklist was adapted from resources developed by HIGH FIVE®, a quality assurance standard for children's recreation and sport, founded by Parks and Recreation Ontario.*

