



February 2007

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Upcoming Events:

Feb. 2007 - Basic Child Protection Seminar – Mayapur, India

Spring 2007 – Community child protection awareness, New Vrindavana, WV

May 2007 - Leadership and Child Protection for North American leaders, Houston, TX

Summer 2007 - Advanced training seminar for CPT leaders – Europe

September 2007 - Second Annual Child Protection Conference – North Carolina

Contact the CPO to arrange a training in your community!

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Child Protection Takes a Major Step in India

One of our most important advancements in 2006 was to establish many new Child Protection Teams in India. Not only were new teams developed at over ten temples, but these teams participated in thorough trainings. The groundwork has been established to create many more CPT's at all temples over the next year.

Many devotees assisted in this effort, and helped with regional trainings. Devotees involved were **Bhakta Rupa Prabhu**, who deserves much of the credit for organizing the effort, **Nirguna Mataji**, **Braja Bihari** and **Ananda Vrindavanesvari Prabhus**, **Gandhari Mataji**, **Ramadevi Mataji**, and **Hari Sauri Prabhu**. After the preliminary regional organizational and training meetings, many of these devotees came for additional training. During Kartika in Vrindavana, **Tamohara das** held a three-day training for new and experienced child protection team members and temple leaders.

Accomplishments this year include:

- Establishing an India Child Protection Coordinating Team
- Developing child protection standards and policies throughout India

- Conducting four Regional Training and Information session at Mumbai, Tirupati, Delhi, and Kolkata
- Organizing Child Protection Teams in many Indian temples
- Holding a three-day training in Vrindavana by Tamohara das, CPO Director, for 35 child protection team members and leaders, representing 12 temples in India, and a one-day training with 75 leaders and CPT members from throughout India
- Starting E-mail conferences for the Coordinating Team and Child Protection Team members

India is now in the forefront of child protection in ISKCON. Due to the sincere efforts of concerned devotees, we have a strong continental team that is committed to this important service. They are demonstrating an effective model for organizing child protection at the national level.

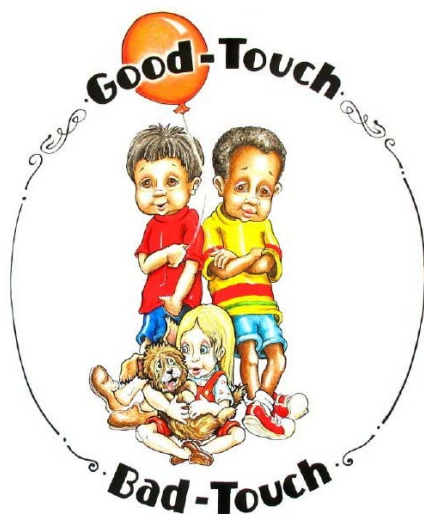
"Good-Touch/Bad-Touch" is Body Safety Education for Children

This year the ISKCON Child Protection Office became trainers for the child abuse prevention curriculum known as "Good-Touch/Bad-Touch." This age-appropriate curriculum was developed in 1983 and is widely used in American public schools from pre-school to sixth grade. The GTBT concepts are introduced to children in the first grade and every year thereafter, in an age-appropriate manner, so children have a thorough body safety education by the time they reach junior high.

The CPO hopes to implement this curriculum in ISKCON schools and Sunday schools and received a grant from Children of Krishna, Inc., for this purpose. So far, the *Alachua Learning Center*, Alachua, Florida; and the *Bhaktivedanta Gurukula* and *Sandipani Muni School* in Vrindavana have

adopted this body safety education program, training teachers and obtaining materials. There is also interest in implementing this program in Australia, Bhaktivedanta Manor, Alachua Gurukula, Hungary, Chowpatti, to name a few. Other devotees have expressed interest in introducing this curriculum in their Sunday Schools.

Through this curriculum, children learn skills to help protect themselves from sexual, physical or emotional abuse, either from those they know or from strangers. They learn how to deal with abusers, as well as bullying. They learn strategies to handle abusive situations, learn to tell and keep telling trusted adults, and learn that abuse is never their fault. Older children learn Internet safety. For more information on implementing this program, please contact tamohara@yahoo.com.





Thank You to Our 2006 Supporters!

Our sincere appreciation goes to all our supporters who donated in 2006 to assist us in protecting ISKCON's children.

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SIVARAMA SWAMI
SVAVASA PRABHU
TIRTHARAJ PRABHU
VEDA VYASA PRIYA SWAMI

Financial records for the 2006 year are available upon request. Please contact Tamohara das at tamohara@yahoo.com.

Child Protection Training throughout the World

One of the principal services of the CPO is to train devotees around the world in child protection. In 2006, thirty days of training seminars were held for 21 groups at nine locations in six different countries. This resulted in child protection training for 351 devotees, including leaders, child protection teams, teachers, youth, temple residents, and community members. Child Protection trainings were held in Mayapur; Toronto; Alachua, Florida; Brazil; Bhaktivedanta Manor; Hungary; and Vrndavana.

First North American Child Protection Conference

In November 2006, devotees working for child protection held the First Annual North American Child Protection Conference. A group of over 20 dedicated devotees and child protection team members met for two and a half days of seminars and discussion at a retreat center near Hillsborough, North Carolina. The bulk of the Conference organization was handled by **Lilasuka** and **Uttara Prabhus**.

The weekend was composed of seminars that included such topics as *Signs and Types of Abuse, How to Handle a Disclosure, The Importance of Educating Children to Protect Themselves*, and group discussions on subjects such as the necessity of screening residents and volunteers. At the conclusion of the conference action plans were developed to strengthen safety in our communities, continue networking activities, and increase the scope of outreach and community education.

The conference was such a success that everyone agreed that this will become an annual event. Our next conference will again be held in North Carolina during September 2007. Please check our website for details next summer – www.childprotectionoffice.org.

Screening Programs and Background Checks – A Key to Keeping our Children Safe and Communities Secure

It is necessary that temple managers know the character and background of each and every devotee/employee serving, working and residing in the temple. This devotee/employee screening process will protect temples from negligent liability, as well as provide our devotee communities with a sense of trust and safety for themselves and their children. Proper screening costs very little but increases safety and protection a great deal. Screening helps to:

- ◆ Safeguard the temple and its members
- ◆ Provide vital information to temple leaders
- ◆ Identify important qualities and characteristics of applicants
- ◆ Reduce the risk of negligence if a problem should occur later
- ◆ Identify individuals with criminal or child abuse backgrounds

Legal Liabilities:

According to Dr. James F. Cobble, Jr., a respected authority on church legal issues, if a church ever faces a charge of negligence related to a case of *child sexual molestation*, the outcome of the case largely depends upon two factors:

1. *What policies and procedures the church followed regarding the selection and supervision of church workers (both volunteer and paid employees)*
2. *To what degree such policies and procedures were followed in the case under consideration.*

A proper screening procedure has three essential components:

1. obtaining a written application
2. contacting references
3. conducting further background checks

More information on screening procedures and background checks can be obtained from the Child Protection Office (cpo@pamho.net) or can be downloaded from our website:

www.childprotectionoffice.org.