



El Ayudante's Child Protection Policy

The children and youth in our surrounding communities are the future of our community and country. We recognize the great privilege and responsibility in the fact that parents entrust their children to our care. We never want to break their trust. We have a responsibility to do our best to teach them the truths of God and train them up in the ways of the Lord. We also have a responsibility to do our best to provide a safe and secure environment for that teaching to take place. Toward that end, El Ayudante has adopted the following policy for all who work with the children and youth.

The purpose of the policy is: To provide as safe an environment as possible for preschoolers, children, youth and workers as they participate in EA activities.

1. No EA staff member, long term or short term volunteer should ever be alone with a minor -be that outside or inside.
2. El Ayudante does not have a right to physical discipline of any sort. If a child is being unmanageable they need to be asked to leave.
3. Physical contact (even hugs) should NEVER be pushed upon a minor by a staff member or a volunteer - if the child is uncomfortable, back away!
4. The children we interact with have parents and care givers that love them - encouraging their bond to their family and treating their family with dignity is important to the emotional health of the children.
5. Child Abuse must be prevented at all costs. Failure to make reasonable efforts to prevent a sexual contact with a child including an EA staff member, volunteer, or team member is grounds for immediate dismissal. Even if you are not the abuser, but you fail to tell someone and stop the action, you will be dismissed as well.
6. It is the responsibility of all persons having contact with minors participating in EA programs to promote the emotional and physical safety of the participants giving regards to all factors and circumstances known to them.
7. Any photos or information we share regarding children will be shared in a way that conveys dignity to the child and his/her family.

Screening: As of May 1st, 2020, all potential NA missionary staff and volunteers will complete a background check in the U.S. as well as have their pastor or references vouch for their moral integrity. No one who has been convicted of a crime involving misconduct with a minor will be allowed to work with minors. All team members are expected to have had a background check completed by their church before coming.