



LIGHT THE WAY FOUNDATIONS

MY ROLE IN PROTECTING CHILDREN

Participant Reflection & Action Workbook

HOW DO YOU MEASURE THE WORTH OF A CHILD?

By the systems we build to protect them.

PARTICIPANT

TRAINING / COMMUNITY

DATE

SEVEN MODULES. ONE JOURNEY.

Learn. Reflect. Act. Carry the light forward.



MODULES 01–02 / NOTICE AND UNDERSTAND

A Guide to Light the Way

Follow along with the training. Keep the reminders that matter. Leave with a next responsible step.

A DIFFERENT LENS

If this were your child, your family, or your story, what would you need from the people and systems meant to protect and support you?

01 EVERY CHILD HAS WORTH

The heart of Project Worth. Every child deserves dignity, protection, and adults willing to act.

What would tell a child that the adults around them truly value their safety and worth?

02 WHAT HIDES IN PLAIN SIGHT

Notice patterns: special access, secrecy, blurred boundaries, and the misuse of power.

FROM THE TRAINING: THE TRUSTED VOLUNTEER

A respected volunteer privately messages teenagers and gives individual gifts despite policy. A supervisor dismisses the concern because the volunteer is well liked.

Which observable behaviors concern you? What would you document or raise within your role?

CONNECTING THE DOTS

What we notice. What we overlook. What we choose to do. *Complete these statements as we move through the training.*

1. Children have childhood to enjoy. We have childhood to _____.
2. Being chosen can feel powerful. That is why adults must understand _____.
3. A reputation is not a _____ assessment.
4. When concerns stay disconnected, _____ can stay hidden.
5. An adult's reputation does not place them above _____. A child's reputation does not diminish their right to _____.

ONE QUESTION TO CARRY FORWARD What might we overlook when we focus on who someone is rather than what someone is doing?



MODULES 03–04 / RESPOND WITH CARE; ACT WITHIN YOUR ROLE

The Courage to Speak & Act

Your first response matters. The next responsible step matters, too.

03 THE COURAGE TO SPEAK

Every voice deserves to be heard. Listen calmly without pressure, blame, or leading questions.

PRACTICE THE FIRST RESPONSE

A teenager says: “Something happened with someone everyone likes. Please don’t tell anyone.”

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. The first response can either open the next _____ or close it.
2. Adults do not need to determine _____ to respond responsibly.
3. Delayed disclosure does not mean _____.

ACTIVITY: THE WORDS THAT MATTER

A teenager tells you something concerning about a trusted adult and says: *“Please don’t tell anyone. I don’t want to get them in trouble.”*

What would you say first? _____

From the training: Thank them for telling you. Listen calmly. Don’t investigate or promise secrecy. Explain the next responsible step.

04 THE COURAGE TO ACT

Five Steps. One Role. The goal is not to prove what happened—it is to act responsibly.

01	DOCUMENT	What you observed or were told
02	REPORT	To the appropriate authority
03	PRESERVE	Records and confirmations lawfully
04	SUPPORT	Without pressure or judgment
05	SAFEGUARD	While responsible agencies act

PROJECT WORTH ACCOUNTABILITY LADDER

Acknowledge the concern > Take responsibility > Identify the next step > Act and follow through.



MODULE 04 / FOLLOW THROUGH

The Next Responsible Step

Taking responsibility means reporting appropriately and following through within your role.

If someone says “Our supervisor will decide whether to report,” what is your next responsible step?

1. Internal reporting does not replace a legally required _____ report.
2. A report is not the _____ line.
3. The responsibility to protect does not end when the report is _____.

COMPLETE THE ACCOUNTABILITY LADDER

01 Acknowledge the _____ 02 Take _____ 03 Identify the next _____ 04 Act and follow _____

MODULE 05 / STRENGTHEN THE SYSTEM

Beyond a Report

What happens after someone speaks up matters as much as how we first respond.

05 WHEN SYSTEMS FAIL TO ACT

A report is a process. A survivor is a person.

DIFFERENT OUTCOMES. DIFFERENT QUESTIONS.

“Screened out,” “unsubstantiated,” and “no charges filed” describe different decisions; none, alone, proves a report was false. Appropriate support and lawful safeguards may still be needed.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Reports that cannot be acted on today should not _____ tomorrow.
2. Survivors should not have to connect the _____ between disconnected systems.
3. When every system says it cannot act, who is left carrying the _____?

A report is screened out or no charges are filed. Does that mean the responsibility to protect ends? What can an organization still do?

TRAINING REFERENCE / ANSWER KEY Module 3: door, guilt, dishonest. Module 4: external, finish, submitted. Accountability Ladder: concern, responsibility, step, through.



MODULE 06 / SAFER ORGANIZATIONS

A Culture of Prevention

Good intentions are not a prevention plan. Safe cultures make the right response easier.

06 A CULTURE OF PREVENTION

Good intentions are not a prevention plan. Safe cultures make the right response easier.

LOOK FOR SAFEGUARDS THAT WORK TOGETHER

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Clear adult–child communication boundaries | ☐ Appropriate supervision and private-access limits |
| ☐ Knowable external reporting pathways | ☐ Consistent response, retention, and follow-through |
| ☐ Screening, training, and routine policy review | ☐ Leaders held to the same safety standards |

PREVENTION CULTURE

People can raise concerns without fear. Safety never depends on reputation or rank.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Good intentions are not a _____ plan.
2. Safe cultures make misuse of power harder to _____.
3. Safety matters more than _____, loyalty, or image.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE A respected staff member repeatedly breaks a child-safety policy, but leadership makes exceptions because they're well liked.

What should matter more: the person's reputation or consistent accountability?

One practice or policy our team should review:



MODULE 07 / BE THE LIGHT

Your Sphere of Influence

Project Worth is a verb. Knowledge matters. What we do with it matters more.

07 BE THE LIGHT

Ordinary people doing extraordinary things—one responsible action at a time.

YOUR LIGHT THE WAY COMMITMENT

Choose one action in your role that could make children safer. It should be realistic, specific, and yours to carry forward—not something you must do alone.

One action I will take after this training:

WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

WHEN WILL I BEGIN?

KEEP CLOSE / WHEN A CONCERN REACHES YOU

LISTEN Respond calmly, with dignity; avoid probing or promises of secrecy.

ACT Follow reporting obligations promptly; internal notice is not a substitute.

FOLLOW THROUGH Preserve lawfully, support the person, and review safeguards within your role.

MY VERIFIED CONTACTS / PROCEDURES

External reporting contact or current procedure:

Internal safeguarding contact or immediate-safety procedure:

IMPORTANT

This is a learning guide—not a place to record identifying case details or make a child abuse report. Follow applicable law and organizational procedures.

NOTES TO CARRY FORWARD



ORGANIZATION WORKSHEETS / PAGE 1 OF 2

Make Worth the Standard

After training, review what your organization already does—and what children need it to do better.

FOR THE PEOPLE WHO SET POLICIES

Use these pages with a supervisor, safeguarding lead, or leadership team. They are discussion and improvement tools, not an audit, certification, or replacement for legal obligations.

ORGANIZATION / PROGRAM

POLICY REVIEW LEAD

A PRACTICAL POLICY CHECK

Mark what is in place now, what needs attention, or what you are unsure about. Focus on actual practice—not just the existence of a written policy.

AREA	WHAT GOOD PRACTICE LOOKS LIKE	IN PLACE	REVIEW / ?
BOUNDARIES	Rules for private communication, gifts, access, rides, and exceptions.	☐	☐
DISCLOSURES	Staff know how to listen supportively without investigating.	☐	☐
REPORTING	Current external reporting instructions; no supervisor approval delay.	☐	☐
RECORDS	Lawful retention, secure documentation, and appropriate pattern review.	☐	☐
SAFEGUARDS	Clear responsibility for support and safety while agencies act.	☐	☐
PREVENTION CULTURE	Screening, supervision, refresher training, fair enforcement, no retaliation.	☐	☐

Where are we already strong?

What gap deserves attention first?



ORGANIZATION WORKSHEETS / PAGE 2 OF 2

One Change. Starting Today.

Choose an action you can begin now, then build the longer-term support around it.

Your leadership owns the policy decision and implementation. A Light the Way Advocate may help your team plan next steps.

ONE change we can begin implementing today:

FIRST STEP WE WILL TAKE TODAY

PERSON RESPONSIBLE

What policy, practice, or communication will be different?

TARGET DATE

HOW WE WILL KNOW IT HAPPENED

FOLLOW THROUGH / A PRACTICAL CHECK-IN

30 DAYS Has the change been drafted, approved, or started?

60 DAYS Have people been informed and supported to use it?

90 DAYS Is it working in practice? What needs adjustment?

LIGHT THE WAY ADVOCATE / OPTIONAL FOLLOW-UP

We would welcome collaborative support with:

☐ Reviewing a proposed safeguard

☐ Planning staff training or communication

☐ Identifying next implementation steps

☐ Discussing prevention culture

Organization contact / preferred follow-up method:

Do not include confidential cases or identifying child or survivor information. For a current safety concern, use established reporting and emergency procedures—not this workbook.



YOUR NEXT STEP / BE THE LIGHT

Be the Light.

Change starts here. And it starts with you.

Project Worth is **100% volunteer-led**. Built by ordinary people who believe every child is worth protecting, every voice deserves to be heard, and every one of us has the power to make a difference.

Training is free for professionals, organizations, or anyone wanting to learn more about child protection.

We don't expect everyone to change the world. **We simply ask you to carry the light forward into your own sphere of influence.**

Whether you're a parent, educator, professional, leader, or community member, you have the opportunity to make the spaces around you safer for children.

MY LIGHT THE WAY COMMITMENT

One thing I will do differently to help protect children:

**ONE LIGHT CAN SPARK
CHANGE. MANY LIGHTS
CAN IGNITE A MOVEMENT.**

**CHANGE STARTS HERE.
WITH YOU.**

JOIN THE MOVEMENT.

projectworthwi.org



SCAN FOR LIGHT THE WAY

A NOTE TO SURVIVORS

If this training touches your own story, Project Worth would like to remind you that your worth was never lost. You deserve care on your terms.

You matter. Your story matters. And there is still so much of your life waiting to be lived.

Team Project Worth would be honored to connect with you and hear your story, whenever you're ready.