

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month - The US Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, its Child Welfare Information Gateway, and the FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention created the [2010 Resource Guide](#) targeted specifically for service providers who work with parents, other caregivers, and their children with the common goal of strengthening families. The guide contains resources to promote community awareness of five important protective factors that can help families protect children from the risk of child abuse and neglect, including tip sheets for parents in English and Spanish. These resources were developed with input from numerous national organizations, Federal partners, and parents committed to strengthening families. A great way to include youth protection activities in **YMCA Healthy Kid's Day**.

US survey finds sharp drop in children's bullying - a study, funded by the Department of Justice, found that the percentage of children who reported being physically bullied over the past year had declined from nearly 22 percent in 2003 to under 15 percent in 2008. The percentage reporting they'd been assaulted by other youths, including their siblings, dropped from 45 percent to 38.4 percent. The lead author of the study, Professor David Finkelhor, said he was "very encouraged. Bullying is the foundation on which a lot of subsequent aggressive behavior gets built. If it's going down, we will reap benefits in the future in the form of lower rates of violent crime and spousal assault." [Read more about the study online](#). While this news is encouraging, the study also shows that more than one third of the youth were being physically bullied. Youth organizations must work with youth, staff, parents and the community to protect youth from abuse including bullying. More information about abuse prevention is available at the Safe-Wise [Online Resource Library](#).

A Life-Saving Solution - A single lifeguard was on duty at a YMCA pool in Omaha, Neb., when a 45-year-old lap swimmer lost consciousness and sank beneath the surface on the shallow end. The Lifeguard was able to respond in a way that not all solo lifeguards can do—at least not yet. He relied on the aid of a turtle. A Safety Turtle, that is. Learn more about Safety Turtle in this article from [Recreation Management magazine](#). Safe-Wise Consulting has recommended the [Safety Turtle](#) system to many clients and it has helped them raise their level of emergency preparedness.

Get your Ropes Courses and Climbing Walls ready for summer - Two great resources to help you prepare outdoor and indoor facilities for summer programming include the [Association for Challenge Course Technology \(ACCT\)](#) and the [Climbing Wall Association \(CWA\)](#). ACCT is a trade organization, serving Challenge Course Professionals all over the world. The purpose of the association is to promote the use of Challenge Courses and to set minimum standards for Challenge Course installation, operation and inspection. The CWA offers a variety of products and services including publications, membership, conferences and events, training, and consulting. They offer consensus standards for the operation of climbing facilities, training for the staff of climbing facilities, and risk management consulting for member organizations.

Resources for Camp – Safe-Wise Consulting has many useful resources for camp safety in our [Online Resource Library](#) resources include:

American Camping Association 2010 Standards Update: [Download](#)

Boating Programs Safety Manual: [Download](#)

Bullying Prevention Tip Sheet for Camp Staff: [Download](#)

Camps and the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard: [Download](#)

Chainsaw Safety: [Download](#)

Chainsaw Safety (Spanish): [Download](#)

Equestrian Program Fact Sheet: [Download](#)

Equestrian Program Safety Manual: [Download](#)

Heat Stress Fact Sheet: [Download](#)

Lyme Disease Fact Sheet: [Download](#)

POWER Hiring for Camp Staff: [Download](#)

Sample Anti-Bullying Policy for Camps: [Download](#)

Sample Camper Behavior Policies: [Download](#)

Sample Camp Lifeguard Skills Verification Sheets: [Download](#)

Using the Correct Personal Flotation Device: [Download](#)

Top Ten List for Summer Program Safety: [Webinar](#) (23 mins)

Bed Bugs Require fast and thorough Action – Here is some great information from [Gary Forster Camp Solutions](#): **Don't let the Bed Bugs Bite** – train and certify your own maintenance staff to use [Thermapure](#) that can help combat an ongoing issue; possibly for years to come. **Find out more about bedbugs** from the [University of Kentucky, School of Agriculture](#). **Can't I Just Spray Them?** – The internet is full of stories of people using bug sprays available from Walmart and drug stores, as long as they contain pyrethrins (natural insecticides extracted from the flowers of Chrysanthemums.) Spectrum is a manufacturer of several different brands, including "Hot Shot," that use synthetic forms of the chemical (pyrethroids) that work in some circumstances. Look for the ingredients *Lambda-Cyhalothrin* and *Prallethrin*. It can work if the bugs aren't hidden deep in cracks (bunk parts, wall paneling, baseboard and trim), and if the bedding is all cleaned and the mattress seams are treated, and it's done several times over the bug's lifecycle. They may be good to have as a "first attack" on hand in your arsenal, and good to use proactively after rental groups that might have a higher likelihood of bringing in the bugs; like international travelers, groups that bring bedding they use at home (the bugs won't be living in a sleeping bag used once a year), etc. But so far, [heat is still the most dependable solution](#); when done correctly.

National Water Safety Month- Save Lives, Share Ideas and Get Connected - May is the 2010 National Water Safety Month and [the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals \(APSP\)](#) has the resources you need to promote safety in your area. Join the [National Water Safety Month group](#) to download resources and materials, watch the latest videos, share ideas on water safety promotion and learn about the 2010 National Water Safety Month activities. Consider holding a water safety event at your facility. Teaching community members to swim is an effective way to help prevent aquatic accidents and drownings.

Learn more about these and other topics in the [Online Resource Library](#)