

Child Safety Puppeteers Fact Sheet

Child Abuse Prevention in Nevada County Schools

Who runs this program? Child Safety Puppeteers is part of the Child Advocates of Nevada County, a long-standing and well-respected organization that works to reduce child abuse in our community.

What do we do? We perform short and simple puppet shows for children in TK-4th grade about staying safe from bullying and inappropriate touches. The scripts are attached on the back of the curtain inside the puppet theatre. No memorizing is needed!

How do we do it? We leave campus in groups of three or four students and are driven by the Child Safety Puppeteers Coordinator to elementary schools around the County. We set up a portable puppet theatre in a classroom or multi-purpose room, perform a show and meet the kids. We often perform two-four shows in a row, with breaks in between. When we're finished, we pack up and drive back to school (after sometimes getting lunch or going to a cafe).

How long would I be gone? Usually two-three hours. The absence is excused by the office and counts for community service.

How do I get out of class? On the day of the show you'll leave class at an agreed time and meet the Coordinator in the Attendance Office. You'll be signed out for an excused absence. When you get back to school you'll check back in at the office.

How do I learn what to do? In September you are invited to come to a training and learn a little about child abuse and how to be a puppeteer. Then in a group you'll rehearse the script and work with the puppets.

How do I know what shows to do? The Coordinator will message you with upcoming dates for puppet shows and you will pick whatever appeals to you and works with your schedule. Puppet shows usually take place in the mornings from 9 AM - 12 PM.

How often will I do shows? You can do as many or as few as you choose, just be careful not to miss the same classes over and over! Some puppeteers perform ten shows per month, and others might perform one or two per month.

Do I get paid? No, but you can earn community service credit, and this program looks great on a college resume! Most importantly, you are performing a great service for kids.

How do I sign up? Email Marcy Risque, Puppeteer Coordinator at marcy@caofnc.org to sign up, provide your contact information and obtain the schedule for trainings in September. She'll email you permission forms that will need to be signed by a parent and returned before you are scheduled for puppet shows.

When are the trainings? Trainings are held in September at Nevada Union High School in the Wellness Center after school from 3:45-5:00 pm. You only need attend one training. To get the schedule for trainings and reserve a spot, message **Marcy Risque at 530-913-1571** or email marcy@caofnc.org. I look forward to meeting you!