



RECOGNIZING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse is a non-accidental injury by a parent or caretaker.

PHYSICAL SIGNS MAY INCLUDE:

- Bruises, welts, or swelling
- Multiple bruises of different colors
- Frequent bruises around the head, face, or abdomen
- Sprains or broken bones
- Burns
- Lacerations or abrasions
- Bite marks
- Unexplained, repeated injuries
- Stiffness, soreness or awkward movements as if caused by pain

BEHAVIORAL SIGNS MAY INCLUDE:

- Has a reputation for being "accident prone"
- Wariness around adults
- Demonstrates destructiveness to self or others
- Fear of parent or caregiver
- Reluctant to go home
- Wears clothes that covers the body in warm weather
- Displays a fearless attitude, often takes extreme risks

SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse is exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult or older child.

PHYSICAL SIGNS MAY INCLUDE:

- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Complain of genital/anal rash, itching, pain or burning
- Complain of genital/anal bleeding
- Complain of painful urination
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Pregnancy

BEHAVIORAL SIGNS MAY INCLUDE:

- Age-inappropriate sexual knowledge
- Unusual secrecy
- Seductive behavior
- Sudden drop in school performance or in participation
- Excessive masturbation
- Suicide attempts or talk of suicide
- Self mutilation
- Low self worth, talk of being dirty or damaged
- Sleep problems or nightmares
- Sudden onset of wetting or soiling self



Learn more at
abetterwaymuncie.org

NEGLECT

Neglect occurs when parents/caretakers do not provide proper supervision, control, subsistence, education, or other care necessary for healthy development.

NEGLECT SIGNS MAY INCLUDE:

- **Low self-esteem**
- **Crave attention or have clingy behavior**
- **Always hungry, hoarding/stealing food**
- **Inadequately dressed for weather**
- **Chronic tiredness**
- **Have poor hygiene, often wears dirty or ill fitting clothes**
- **Seem emaciated or have distended stomach**
- **Cares for younger siblings when the child is under 8**
- **Obvious lack of medical or dental treatment**
- **Recurring bouts of lice**
- **Difficulty coping or problem solving**
- **Has a depressed, negative attitude**
- **Frequent absence or tardiness**

NEGLECT IS THE MOST COMMON FORM OF MALTREATMENT.

Of the children who experienced maltreatment or abuse, three-quarters suffered neglect; 17.2% suffered physical abuse; and 8.4% suffered sexual abuse.

- **National Statistics of Child Abuse**

- **Information provided by Kids Talk**

Supported By:



WHAT DO I DO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES?

DOS

- ✓ **REMAIN CALM**
- ✓ **BE AWARE OF YOUR FACIAL EXPRESSIONS**
- ✓ **BELIEVE THE CHILD**
- ✓ **THANK THE CHILD FOR TELLING YOU**
- ✓ **LISTEN**
- ✓ **REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE IMMEDIATELY!**
- ✓ **INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES REPORTING HOTLINE**

DON'TS

- X **DON'T MAKE ANY PROMISES**
- X **DON'T ASK PROBING QUESTIONS**
- X **DO NOT COMPLETE THE SENTENCE/FILL IN WORDS FOR THE CHILD.**
- X **DO NOT SAY ANYTHING NEGATIVE ABOUT THE OFFENDER. 91% OF THE OFFENDERS ARE KNOWN TO THE CHILD AND MAY BE SOMEONE THEY LOVE.**

Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline

1-800-800-5556

UNDER INDIANA LAW ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS A REASON TO BELIEVE A CHILD IS A VICTIM OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT HAS THE DUTY TO MAKE A REPORT; THEREFORE, EACH CITIZEN OF INDIANA IS CONSIDERED A "MANDATED REPORTER."