

Child Abuse PREVENTION



"It's important to talk about it. You raise awareness. But you can also prevent it by not letting it be a secret".

Chris Witty



Child Abuse

Abuse

- * **Child abuse and neglect** - At a minimum, any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.
- * **Sexual abuse** - the employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct; or he rape, and in cases of caretaker or inter-familial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children.

NEGLECT

- * **Physical neglect** – Includes abandonment or inadequate supervision, and failure to provide for safety or physical needs. Includes failure to thrive, malnutrition, unsanitary conditions, or injuries from lack of supervision.
- * **Educational neglect** – Includes not enrolling child in school, or allowing child to engage in chronic truancy.
- * **Emotional neglect** - Includes withholding of affection or attention, failure to provide psychological care, ignoring the child's emotional needs.
- * **Medical neglect** – Includes delay or denial of dental or health care, or withholding medical care due to religious beliefs. Some states will not prosecute due to withholding of health care due to religious beliefs but court orders are occasionally obtained to save a child's life.

Indicators of Abuse

Signs of Child Abuse

- Has unexplained burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, or black eyes
- Has fading bruises or other marks noticeable after an absence from school
- Seems frightened of the parents and protests or cries when it is time to go home
- Shrinks at the approach of adults
- Reports injury by a parent or another adult caregiver
- Abuses animals or pets

Signs of Neglect

- Lacks needed medical or dental care, immunizations, or glasses
- Is consistently dirty and has severe body odor
- Lacks sufficient clothing for the weather
- Abuses alcohol or other drugs
- States that there is no one at home to provide care
- Is frequently absent from school
- Begs or steals food or money

Signs of Sexual Abuse

- Has difficulty walking or sitting
- Suddenly refuses to change for gym or to participate in physical activities
- Reports nightmares or bedwetting
- Experiences a sudden change in appetite
- Demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior
- Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease, particularly if under age 14
- Runs away
- Reports sexual abuse by a parent or another adult caregiver
- Attaches very quickly to strangers or new adults in their environment

Signs of Emotional Abuse

- Shows extremes in behavior, such as overly compliant or demanding behavior, extreme passivity, or aggression
- Is either inappropriately adult (parenting other children, for example) or inappropriately infantile (frequently rocking or head-banging, for example)
- Is delayed in physical or emotional development



Keep your children informed!

Teach them:

- ✓ The real names for their body parts, including their private parts, so they can talk about things that happen to their bodies in a way others will understand.
- ✓ Not to keep secrets. Tell your children to let you know if a child or adult plays secret games or tells them something bad will happen if they don't keep the secret.
- ✓ Adults are not always right. Tell your children to come and talk to you if they don't feel right about something a grownup says or does.
- ✓ To tell if something happens. Let your children know that if they say someone has touched them, you will believe them and not be mad at them. Tell them that you love them and will help keep them safe.

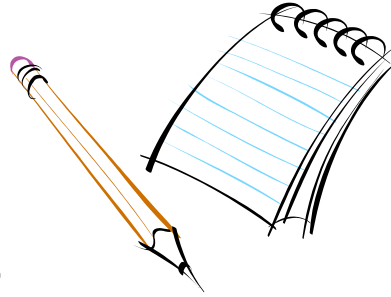
Establish your own set of Family Rules!

- ✓ "Do not let others know if you are home alone."
- ✓ "Your opinion is important when we try a new babysitter or have a problem with a babysitter."

What if Game

- ✓ "What if you were playing (someplace you aren't supposed to play) and a man or woman tried to make you get into their car?"
- ✓ "What if you and I got separated at the shopping mall?"
- ✓ "What if someone we know really well touched you in a confusing way and asked you to keep it a secret?"
- ✓ "What if an older person offered you money (or something you really wanted) if you would break our family rules?"

Resources



Online Resources

Child Abuse and Neglect: www.childwelfare.gov/can/index.cfm

Laws and Policies: www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/

Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect: www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/

Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect: www.childwelfare.gov/responding/reporting.cfm

State of Idaho Resources

Idaho's Heart (208) 424-0943 information@idahosheart.org

PO Box 4941

Boise ID 83711

Bannock Youth Foundation/ Teen Suicide Hotline 24 Hours/ 7 Days 1-800-949-0057

Regional Mental Health Services 24-Hours/ Crisis Line (208)233-0590

Idaho KIDS COUNT 208-388-1014 <http://www.idahokidscount.org> 1607 W. Jefferson St. Boise, ID 83702

State of Utah Resources

Child and Family Services Phone: (801) 538-4100 Department of Human Services **Fax:** (801) 538-3993 195 North 1950 West Salt Lake City, Utah 84116 **E-mail:** CAROLMILLER@utah.gov

Prevent Child Abuse Utah Phone: 801.393.3366

2955 Harrison Blvd. Ste 104 Toll Free: 1.800.CHILDREN

Ogden, UT 84403 Fax: 801.781.1205 Email: info@preventchildabuseutah.org