Recognizing Signs of Abuse

Overview For Child Care Educators

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Miami Valley Health & Safety Solutions
Report Child Abuse and Neglect

How to Report Child Abuse and Neglect in Ohio

Report Child Abuse and Neglect 855 O-H-CHILD

Ohioans who suspect child abuse or neglect now only need to remember one phone number.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has launched 855-O-H-CHILD (855-642-4453), an automated telephone directory that will link callers directly to a child welfare or law enforcement office in their county.

Reports can be anonymous.

What information do I need to make a report?

- The name and address of the child you suspect is being abused or neglected
- The age of the child
What information do I need to make a report?

- The name and address of the child you suspect is being abused or neglected
- The age of the child
- The name and address of the parents or caretakers
- The name of the person you suspect is abusing or neglecting the child and the address if available
- The reason you suspect the child is being abuse and neglected
- Any other information which may be helpful to the investigation
- You have the option of giving your name or reporting anonymously. Giving your name can help the investigator clarify information. The agency will not give your name to the person suspected of abusing the child.

*Please Note: All of the above information is not needed to make a report. If you are not sure you have enough information to report, always err on the safety of the child. Children services screens all reports to determine if there is enough information to investigate.*

What happens after a report is made?

In Ohio, after a report is made,

- A child protective services investigator will interview the child, family members & others as deemed appropriate.
- The investigator determines if the child is being abused or is at risk for abuse.
- The case may be referred to local social service agencies, or to juvenile, family or criminal court.

What is a mandated reporter?

A mandated reporter is someone required by law to report if they suspect or know that child abuse if occurring. A list of mandated reporters for Ohio includes:

- Attorneys
- Audiologists
- Child care workers
- Child protective service workers
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- Audiologists
- Child care workers
- Children Services personnel
- Clergy
- Coroners
- Day care personnel
- Dentists
- Nurses
- Physicians including hospital interns and residents
- Podiatrists
- Psychiatrists
- School authorities, employees and teachers
- Social Workers
- Speech Pathologists
- Animal Control Officers/Agents
Who to call?

- If you suspect a child is being hurt, your best option is to call a child abuse hotline or the police. In Montgomery County, Ohio call Children Services at (937) 224-KIDS.
• Three children die of child abuse in the home in the United States each

a. Year
b. Day
c. Week
d. Month
• 2) How many people report child abuse when faced with an actual situation?

a) 3/4  
b) 1/2  
c) 1/3
• What is the single, leading cause of death for children ages four and younger?

a) Drowning  
b) Motor vehicle accidents  
c) Child abuse and neglect  
d) Choking on food  
e) Residential fires  
f) Suffocation  
g) Falls
• On average, child abuse is reported somewhere in the United States every

a) 10 seconds
Based on 2.8 million reports per year b) 20 minutes
 c) Hour
#5

- Strangers pose the greatest risk of sexual abuse to children.
  
  a) True
  
  b) False
6) Child molesters get their sexual gratification only from children.

a) True
b) False
7) The average age that child molesters first attack a child is when they (the attackers) are

a) In their early 20s
b) Middle-aged
c) In their teens
• Which of the following actions can help stop child abuse and neglect?

a) Helping a stressed-out parent by baby-sitting, making a meal for their family or lending an understanding ear.
b) Learning the signs and symptoms of child abuse so you can recognize them when you see the “red flags.”
c) Reporting known or suspected child abuse to the police or local child protective services agency.
d) All of the above
4 PRIMARY TYPES OF ABUSE

– PHYSICAL ABUSE

– SEXUAL ABUSE

– EMOTIONAL ABUSE

– NEGLECT
– Rarely does one form of abuse occur alone

– Ex. Children who are sexually abused often suffer physical injuries. When one form of abuse does exist in absence of others, it is likely to be emotional abuse.
DEFINITION OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

The physical injury or maltreatment of a child under the age of eighteen by a person who is responsible for the child's welfare
INDICATORS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

• Behavior
• Appearance
TYPES OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

- BRUISES
- BURNS
- BITE MARKS
- INTERNAL INJURIES
- FRACTURES
UNEXPLAINED
BRUISES

• Bruises or welts on body or face in various stages of healing

• Unusual patterns or clusters which would reflect the instrument or in multiple areas of the body
LOCATIONS OF BRUSISES

• upper thighs, especially inner thighs
• trunk, buttocks
• upper arms
• sides of face, ears, neck
• genitalia
FACIAL BRUISE
UPPER THIGH BRUISE

Pinch mark on the leg of a 7-year-old boy at a site where accidental bruising is unlikely. Note the two small bruises separated by a clear space.
UNEXPLAINED BURNS

• cigar or cigarette burns
• glove or sock-like burns on extremities,
• doughnut-shaped burns on buttocks,
• burn that shows the shape of the item used, such as an iron
GLOVE OR SOCK-LIKE BURN

Figure 3: Full-thickness burn from immersion in boiling oil – note stocking glove pattern at wrist indicating forced immersion due to demarcation line
CIGARETTE BURN
UNEXPLAINED BITE MARKS

• Human bite marks are identified by their shape and size.
• They may appear only as bruising, or as a pattern of abrasions and lacerations.
UNEXPLAINED BITE MARKS

• They may be caused by other children, or by adults in assault or as an inappropriate form of punishment.
HUMAN BITE MARK
HUMAN BITE MARK

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INTERNAL INJURIES

• Lacerations and abrasions
  – around the mouth, lip, eye, or external genitalia
• Intestinal injuries
• Inflammation of abdominal area
UNEXPLAINED FRACTURES

- Multiple fractures in various stages of healing
- Spiral fractures
- Missing or loosened teeth
- Facial fractures
- Subdural hematomas
PHYSICAL FORCE TO THE MOUTH
Typical features of non-accidental injuries (injuries that should raise concerns)

- Ears – especially pinch marks involving both sides of the ear
- The “triangle of safety” (ears, side of face, and neck, top of shoulders): accidental injuries in this area are unusual
- Inner aspects of arms
- Back and side of trunk, except directly over the bony spine
- Black eyes, especially if bilateral
- Soft tissues of cheeks
- Intra-oral injuries
- Forearms when raised to protect self
- Chest and abdomen
- Any groin or genital injury
- Inner aspects of thighs
- Soles of feet

REMEMBER
Concerns are raised by:
- injuries to both sides of the body
- injuries to soft tissue
- injuries with particular patterns
- any injury that doesn’t fit the explanation
- delays in presentation
- untreated injuries
Typical features of accidental injuries

**Head injuries tend to involve the parietal bone, occiput or forehead**

**Forehead**

**Nose**

**Chin**

**Palm of hand**

**Elbows**

**Knees**

**Shins**

**REMEMBER**

Accidental injuries typically:
- involve bony prominences
- match the history
- are in keeping with the development of the child
SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

A child wearing inappropriate clothing such as a turtleneck in hot weather...

• Child is embarrassed and conceals the bruises
• Parents attempt to conceal the bruises
SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

Bruises maybe especially noticeable after an extended absence, such as Vacation, Weekend, or Illness
CLUES TO RECOGNIZING PHYSICAL ABUSE

BEHAVIOR INDICATORS

• Agitation
• Anger and rage
• Anxiety or fears
• Apprehensive when other children cry
• Avoids social contact or seem withdrawn
• Behaves aggressively
CLUES TO RECOGNIZING PHYSICAL ABUSE

BEHAVIOR INDICATORS

• Changes in a child's behavior or school performance
• Cries frequently
• Demonstrates extremes in behavior
• Destroys or throws things
• Depression
CLUES TO RECOGNIZING PHYSICAL ABUSE

BEHAVIOR INDICATORS

• Drug and alcohol abuse
• Fights with other children
• Flashbacks - seems in shock
• Hard-to-believe stories about how accidents occurred
• Immature behaviors such as thumb-sucking or rocking
CLUES TO RECOGNIZING PHYSICAL ABUSE

BEHAVIOR INDICATORS

• Lack of interest in surroundings
• Lies frequently
• Loiters at school or friends - indicates a fear to go home
• Nightmares
CLUES TO RECOGNIZING PHYSICAL ABUSE

BEHAVIOR INDICATORS

• Passive or withdrawn behavior
• Poor self-image
• Reports injury by parents
• Sadness or other symptoms of depression
• School problems or failure
• Seems afraid of a parent or other adults
CLUES TO RECOGNIZING PHYSICAL ABUSE

BEHAVIOR INDICATORS

• Self-destructive or self-abusive behavior, suicidal thoughts
• Startles easily
• Stealing
• Tired often
• Trouble sleeping
• Wary of physical contact with adults
SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE IN ADOLESCENTS

- Substance abuse
- Risky sexual behaviors
- Suicide attempts
- Abnormal eating behaviors
- Nonsexual, high-risk behaviors – (speeding, dare-devil sports).
Caretaker’s Behavior

• Uses harsh discipline inappropriate to child's age, transgression, and condition
• Has performance expectations which are beyond the age capabilities of the child
• Offers illogical, unconvincing, contradictory, or no explanation of child's injury
• Seems unconcerned about child
Caretaker’s Behavior

- Significantly misperceives child (e.g., sees child as bad, evil, a monster, etc.)
- Psychotic or psychopathic
- Misuses alcohol or other drugs
- Attempts to conceal child's injury or to protect identity of person responsible.
DEFINITION OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Acts or omissions by the parents or other caregivers that have caused, or could cause, serious behavioral, cognitive, emotional, or mental disorders
DIFFERENT FORMS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE
HUMILIATION

• Abuse occurs when an adult consistently insults, mimics, and degrades a child.

• It can include sarcastic comments, name-calling, yelling, swearing or shaming a child in private or public.
REJECTION

A parent or caretaker withholds affection or refuses to acknowledge the child's presence or accomplishments.
ISOLATION

A parent or caregiver restricts a child's contact with others, preventing him or her from forming friendships.

Normal family interactions are restricted; a child may be required to stay in his or her room, closet, basement or attic for extended periods of time.
An adult can abuse a child by threatening to use a knife or other means to hurt, torture or kill a pet, loved one or the child.

It includes forcing a child to watch violent acts, threats of abandonment, and/or placing a child in dangerous situations.
CORRUPTION

• Encouraging antisocial or delinquent behavior in children
• When children are given alcohol or other drugs, shown pornographic materials, or are exposed to cruelty toward animals or other human beings.
EXPLOITATION

• Abuse occurs when children are used for advantage or profit, such as involving them in stealing, assaulting, drug dealing or prostitution
WARNING SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE

• low self confidence
• poor self image
• unable in trust
• fearful
WARNING SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE

• too compliant
• hypervigilant
• detached
• difficulty forming relationships
WARNING SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE

• Destructive
• cruel
• passive-aggressive
• compulsive-obsessive
WARNING SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE

• self-destructive
• suicidal
• alcohol or drug abuse
• Dependent
WARNING SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- delayed emotionally, socially and/or academically
- sleep and/or speech disorders
- withdrawn
WARNING SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE

• Dependent
• withdrawn
• Anxious
• depressed
WARNING SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE

• little enthusiasm
• low perseverance
• Demanding
• aggressive
DEFINITION OF NEGLECT

Neglect is failure to act on behalf of the child.
THREE CATEGORIES OF NEGLECT

1. Physical Neglect
2. Emotional Neglect
3. Educational Neglect
PHYSICAL NEGLECT
REFUSAL OF HEALTH CARE

Failure to provide or allow needed care in accordance with recommendations of a competent health-care professional for a physical injury, illness, medical condition, or impairment.
DELAY IN HEALTH CARE

Failure to seek timely and appropriate medical care for a serious health problem that any reasonable layperson would have recognized as needing professional medical attention
ABANDONMENT

Desertion of a child without arranging for reasonable care and supervision
EXPULSION

Blatant refusals of custody, such as permanent or indefinite expulsion of a child from the home without adequate arrangement for care by others or refusal to accept custody of a returned runaway.
INADEQUATE SUPERVISION

Leaving a child unsupervised or inadequately supervised for extended periods of time, or allowing the child to remain away from home overnight without knowing or attempting to determine the child's whereabouts.
INADEQUATE CARE

• Nutrition
• Clothing
• Hygiene
PHYSICAL NEGLECT WARNING SIGNS

• regularly displays fatigue or listlessness
• falls asleep in class
• steals food
• begs from classmates
PHYSICAL NEGLECT WARNING SIGNS

• reports that no caretaker is at home
• frequently absent or tardy
• self destructive
EMOTIONAL NEGLECT
EMOTIONAL NEGLECT WARNING

SIGNS

• Inadequate nurturing or affection
• Exposure of the child to spousal abuse
• Permitting a child to drink alcohol or use recreational drugs
EMOTIONAL NEGLECT WARNING

SIGNS

• Failure to intervene when the child demonstrates antisocial behavior
• Refusal of or delay in providing necessary psychological care
EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT
EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT WARNING SIGNS

• Failure to enroll a child in school
• Permitting or causing a child to miss too many days of school
• Refusal to follow up on obtaining services for a child’s special educational needs
Prevention

• Never discipline your child when your anger is out of control.
• Participate in your child’s activities and get to know your child’s friends.
• Never leave your child unattended, especially in the car.
• Teach your child the difference between “good touches,” “bad touches” and “confusing touches”
Prevention

• Ask questions; for example, when your child tells you he or she doesn’t want to be with someone, this could be a red flag.
• Listen to them and believe what they say.
Prevention

• Pay attention when someone shows greater than normal interest in your child.
• Make certain your child’s school or day care center will release him/her only to you or someone you officially designate.
Prevention

• Be aware of changes in your child’s behavior or attitude, and inquire into it.
• Teach your child what to do if you and your child become separated while away from home.
• Teach your child the correct names of his/her private body parts.
• Be alert for any talk that reveals premature sexual understanding.
Who's Mandated?

- Attorney
- Physician
- Hospital intern/resident
- Coroner
- Registered nurse
- Licensed practical nurse
- Visiting nurse
- Health care professional
- Dentist
- Podiatrist
- Licensed psychologist
- Licensed school psychologist
- Speech pathologist or audiologist
- Practitioner of a limited branch of medicine or surgery
- Administrator or employee of a child daycare center
- Administrator or employee of a certified child-care agency or other public/private children services agency
- School teacher
- School employee or authority
- Social worker
- Person rendering spiritual treatment through prayer in accordance with the tenets of a well-recognized religion, acting in an official/professional capacity