

Not all bruises and broken bones are the result of child abuse. Children are active and do get hurt. But be alert and ask questions if you are concerned.

## Questions to Ask

Does the story about how the injury occurred make sense?

Is it consistent with the child's age and abilities?

Was the injury taken care of?

Has this happened before?

## Report Suspected Child Abuse!

Florida Abuse Hotline:  
1-800-96-ABUSE

## Parents, Help is Available

National Parent HelpLine:  
1-800-4A PARENT



For more information, visit the  
Children's Medical Services website:  
<http://doh.state.fl.us.cms/HProviderPIAbusePrev.html>

Recognize and REPORT  
suspected abuse and neglect.

Together,  
we have the  
power to prevent  
child abuse.

prepare • empower • protect



It is important to recognize and report child abuse so that the bad outcomes for the child can be minimized.



## Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect

- Mild to severe physical injuries
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Pregnancy
- Emotional Problems
- Social withdrawal
- Lack ability to trust
- Learning difficulties
- Post traumatic stress disorder
- Related disabilities
- Tendencies toward re-victimization
- Long-term behavioral problems
- Long-term chronic health problems
- Death

## Recognizing Child Abuse: What You Should Know

Children show their distress in many different ways. Traumatic reactions of children are different at each developmental stage of the child.

### Signs of Possible Neglect

#### THE CHILD:

- Is frequently absent from school, child care, routine activities.
- Begs or steals food or money from classmate.
- Lacks needed clothing for the weather.
- Abuses alcohol or other drugs.
- States there is no one home to provide care.

#### THE PARENT/ADULT CAREGIVER:

- Appears indifferent to the child.
- Seems depressed.
- Behaves irrationally or in a bizarre manners.
- Is abusing alcohol or other drugs.

### Signs of Possible Physical Abuse

#### THE CHILD:

- Has unexplained, bruises, welts, burns, broken bones or black eyes.
- Has fading bruises or other questionable marks after an absence from home or school.
- Seems frightened of parents or caregiver and protests being in their company.
- Shrinks at the approach of adults.
- Reports injury by parent or other caregiver

#### THE PARENT/ADULT CAREGIVER:

- Offers conflicting, unconvincing, or no explanation for child's injuries.
- Describes child as "bad," "evil," "willful" or some other negative way.
- Uses harsh physical punishment with child.
- Has a history of child abuse.

### Signs of Possible Emotional Abuse

#### THE CHILD:

- Shows extremes in behavior, such as being overly compliant or demanding.
- Is either inappropriately adult or inappropriately infant-like.
- Is delayed in physical or emotional development
- Has attempted suicide.
- Reports a lack of attachment to parent.

#### THE PARENT/ADULT CAREGIVER:

- Constantly blames, belittles, or berates child.
- Is unconcerned about the child and refuses to consider offers of help.
- Overly rejects child.

### Signs of Possible Sexual Abuse

#### THE CHILD:

- Has difficulty walking or sitting.
- Suddenly refused to change for gym or take part in physical activities.
- Shows unusual or age-inappropriate behavior sexual knowledge or behavior.
- Becomes pregnant or has a sexual transmitted disease.
- Reports sexual abuse by parent or other adult caregiver.

#### THE PARENT/ADULT CAREGIVER:

- Is unduly protective of the child, severely limits the child's contact with other children.
- Is secretive or isolated.
- Describes marital difficulties involving power struggles or sexual activities.
- Has a history of sexual abuse.