Child Abuse and Neglect

Module 1: Identifying Child Abuse and Neglect
Icons

- This icon represents a new topic in the text. This is a visual cue for you to answer any questions about the previous section before moving along to the next one.

- This icon is used to identify an exercise that involves in-class practice and feedback.

- This icon is used to identify a specially designed activity that requires active class participation.

- This icon is used to identify a section that is accompanied by a video.
Icons

This icon is used to identify a section where the participants should add items to their “Do’s and Don’ts” list.

This icon is used to identify an exercise that involves a role-playing scenario.

This icon is used to identify the use of a transparency related to the material in this section.

This icon is used to identify a key point in the material.
It is important for you to learn about this subject. Child abuse and neglect occurs in all socio-economic \textit{families} as well as in \textit{child care programs}. It is more prevalent than you may think, and you may be the only person in a position to intervene. You have not only a \textit{moral} obligation to intervene, but as we will discuss, you have a \textit{legal} obligation to report it.

For more information about child abuse and neglect, you can call the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence at 1-800-500-1119 or the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence at 1-888-956-7273 to be connected to a local hotline.
1. 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) \( \frac{3}{4} \)  b) \( \frac{1}{2} \)  c) \( \frac{1}{3} \)

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

4. On average, child abuse is reported somewhere in the United States every
   a) 10 seconds  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

8. 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.
Activity: Learning Definitions (p.4)

1. **Child**
   - Any person under the age of 18 years.

2. **Child abuse**
   - Any non-accidental injury, sexual battery, or injury to the intellectual or psychological capacity of a child by the parent, adult household member, or other person responsible for the child’s welfare.

3. **Physical abuse**
   - The mistreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child’s welfare that results in injury or harm to the child.

4. **Sexual abuse**
   - Sexual contact or interaction between a child and an adult or older child. Includes indecent exposure, fondling, touching sexual organs, forcible rape, sodomy, exploitation, and showing pornography.

5. **Verbal Abuse**
   - Shaming, belittling, and/or teasing of a child.

6. **Institutional Abuse or Neglect**
   - Situations of known or suspected child abuse or neglect which occurs at the institution where the person allegedly perpetrating the child abuse or neglect is an employee of a private school, public or private child care center, residential home, institution, program, or agency or any other person at such institution responsible for the child’s care.

7. **Neglect**
   - Failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, health care or needed supervision.

8. **Emotional Neglect**
   - Failure to provide support, acceptance, attention, warmth, supervision and normal living experiences for a child to the extent that the child is impaired in ability to function normally in performance and behavior.

9. **Harm**
   - Anything to a child’s health or welfare that can occur when any person:
     a) inflicts, or allows to be inflicted, upon the child physical, mental, or emotional injury;
     b) commits, or allows to be committed, sexual battery, or lewd or lascivious acts against a child;
     c) allows, encourages, or forces the sexual exploitation of a child;
     d) exploits a child, or allows a child to be exploited;
     e) abandons a child;
     f) neglects a child;
     g) exposes a child to a controlled substance or alcohol;
     h) uses mechanical devices, unreasonable restraints, or extended periods of isolation to control a child;
     i) engages in violent behavior that demonstrates a wanton disregard for the presence of a child and could reasonably result in serious injury to the child;
     j) negligently fails to protect a child in his or her care from inflicted physical, mental, or sexual injury caused by the acts of another;
     k) has allowed a child’s sibling to die as a result of abuse, abandonment, or neglect.
Activity: Learning Definitions (p. 4)

10. **Inadequate Supervision** — When a child is left alone in a situation beyond their physical and emotional development level or when a child is left in the care of someone who does not provide adequate supervision.

11. **Lack of adequate shelter** — When the child is exposed to structurally unsafe housing, exposed wiring, inadequate or unsafe heating, or unsanitary housing conditions.

12. **Lack of adequate clothing/good hygiene** — When a child suffers or is likely to suffer, from physical or emotional health conditions resulting from inadequate clothing, improper hygiene and uncleanness.

13. **Lack of adequate nutrition** — When the caretaker has regularly failed to provide or have available adequate food to the child, which can cause malnutrition over a long period of time.

14. **Lack of medical/dental care** — When a medical or dental condition is left untreated, possibly resulting in serious or long-term harm to the child.

15. **Lack of love and attention (failure to thrive)** — When the parents deny satisfying or fulfilling relationships, thus avoiding most interactions as a method or avoiding rejection and failure. The lack of support or emotional care or love can cause the infant and/or child’s weight to fall below the fifth percentile for age.

16. **Lack of providing access to education** — When education is not enforced by the parents, thereby contributing to the child’s absence from school – leading to the lack of education and leading to truancy.

17. **Florida Abuse Hotline** — Operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, toll free telephone number 800-962-2873.

18. **Immunity** — Exemption from civil or criminal charges resulting from reporting “in good faith.”

19. **Mandated Reporter** — Any person, including, but not limited to, any:
   a) physician, osteopathic physician, medical examiner, chiropractic physician, nurse, or hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of persons;
   b) Health or mental health professional other than one listed in paragraph a);
   c) Practitioner who relies solely on spiritual means for healing;
   d) school teacher or other school official or personnel;
   e) social worker, child care worker, or other professional child care provider, foster care, residential, or institutional worker;
   f) law enforcement officer, or
g) judge – who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or person responsible for the child’s welfare shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department (DCF) in the manner prescribed in subsection (2) of 39.201.
Activity: Learning Definitions (p.4-5)

1. **Child**
   - Any person under the age of 18 years.

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   - Any non-accidental injury, sexual battery, or injury to the intellectual or psychological capacity of a child by the parent, adult household member, or other person responsible for the child's welfare.
   - **Physical abuse**
     - The mistreatment of a child by a person responsible for the child's welfare that results in injury or harm to the child.

3. **Sexual abuse**
   - Sexual contact or interaction between a child and an adult or older child. Includes indecent exposure, fondling, touching sexual organs, forcible rape, sodomy, exploitation, and showing pornography.

4. **Verbal Abuse**
   - A form of emotional abuse that involves excessive yelling, embarrassing, belittling, and/or teasing of a child.

5. **Institutional Abuse or Neglect**
   - Situations of known or suspected child abuse or neglect which occurs at the institution where the person allegedly perpetrating the child abuse or neglect is an employee of a private school, public or private child care center, residential home, institution, program, or agency or any other person at such institution responsible for the child's care.

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     k) has allowed a child's sibling to die as a result of abuse, abandonment, or neglect.
Types of Child Abuse (p.6)

This is an example of **physical** abuse:

For the 3rd time this week Kevin got mud all over his clothes while he was playing outside. This made Kevin’s mother Shelby mad. She thought that putting him in hot bath water would punish him for the dirty clothes. He cried about taking a bath and cried even more when he was put in the bathtub with scalding hot water. Shelby kept her hand on Kevin’s shoulder. Every time he tried to get out of the water, Shelby would push him down. Shelby didn’t notice the scald marks until after the bath was over.

**Examples of Physical Abuse:**

- Scalding a child with hot water
- Slapping, hitting, shaking or shoving
- Beating w/belt, shoe, or other object
- Pulling a child’s hair
- Burning w/lighter, match, cigarette, iron
- Breaking a child’s bones
- Locking a child in a closet or imprisonment
- Painful punishment: kneeling, standing for a long time
Types of Child Abuse (p.6)

Another type of child abuse is **sexual**:

Casey has been at your facility for 3 years. He has been known to lie on several occasions. He comes from a family that has a wonderful reputation in the community. One day Casey is crying. When you ask him what is wrong he tells you that his dad made him take his clothes off and then he took a lot of pictures of him. Casey said Dad told him not to tell anyone about the pictures. He said Dad told him this was their special secret.

**Examples:**

- **Using a child in pornography**
- **Having intercourse or oral sex w/child**
- **Fondling a child’s genitals**
- **Having a child touch another person’s genitals**
- **Showing x-rated material to a child**
Types of Child Abuse (p.7)

A third type of abuse is emotional.

Latoya is quiet and shy child. Lately she has been talking even less. One day she was in the housekeeping area when a cup was accidentally broken by one of the children. Latoya started crying. When you asked what was wrong she told you it reminded her of when she broke her dad’s favorite cup one time. She said now her dad tells her every morning, when she is eating breakfast, that he doesn’t want her around any more because she is bad and is too much trouble. When you ask if Dad hurts her she says no.

Examples:

Conveying that a child is worthless
Terrorizing a child
Witnessing domestic violence
Not allowing child to have friends
Name calling
Not allowing child to eat, drink, use bathroom
Failure to thrive can be an outcome of emotional abuse or lack of emotional care (holding, rocking, singing, touching, and loving) that occurs during infancy and early childhood. This can cause an infant or child’s weight to drop below the fifth percentile.
Key Point

There are three types of child abuse: Physical, Sexual and Emotional.
Shaken Baby Syndrome

- What can shaking a baby or young child cause?
  Permanent brain damage, paralysis, blindness, seizures, developmental delays, broken bones, death

- What can you do to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome?
  Make sure those who care for young children know the dangers of shaking a baby; be careful during play or physical activity.

- How can you cope with a crying baby or child?
  Take deep, slow breaths, take a break, ask for help, count to 10.
Examples of Neglect (p.9)

- Leaving a child alone
- Leaving a child in a place that is not safe
- Lack of attention
- Not providing clothing, food, or shelter
- Not providing necessary medical attention
- Not providing appropriate schooling
- Not providing protection from hazards
Failure to provide support, acceptance, attention, warmth, supervision and normal living experience for a child is considered neglect. Withholding these things can cause a child to not function normally in performance and behavior. Sometimes withholding things can also be child abuse. The difference between abuse and neglect is that if an adult intentionally withholds food, shelter or any other necessity as a punishment, then it is abuse, but if things are withheld by circumstance or lack of awareness, care, or education, then it is an act of neglect. Both abuse and neglect are crimes and violations of children’s human rights. It is important for your program to offer parents information on resources in your community in an effort to prevent neglect before it occurs. Be proactive – work with your families from the first day they enter your program.
Key Point (page 9)

Failure to provide support, acceptance, attention, warmth, supervision and normal living experience (such as water, food, clothing, housing, and protection) for a child is considered neglect.
There are observable physical and behavioral indicators associated with abuse and neglect.
“What are some examples of things that could be shared with you or talked about that could help you recognize signs of abuse or neglect?”

- Parent blames or belittles child
- Parent talks about child as bad or evil
- Parent smells of alcohol/drugs or seems to be under the influence
- Parent fails to keep appointments
- Parent seems unconcerned with child
- Parent mentions financial problems
- Parent talks about divorce, death, or illness
- Parent admits to alcohol or substance abuse
- Parent talks about domestic violence or shows signs
Interaction with children and families provides information that may further help the caregiver in recognizing possible cases of abuse and/or neglect.
Scenario 1: You are the caregiver for 4 year olds. You have known one of the boys in your class and his family for about 6 months. The mother is divorced and is raising the boy and his older sister by herself. The father sees the children once in a while. The mother dates and leaves the boy at night with his older sister to supervise him. Lately, the boy has been coming to school with various cuts and bruises. Each time you ask his mother about the marks she explains what has happened. Today the child comes to your program with what looks like cigarette burns on his right leg. He also has a fresh bruise on his arm. When you try to ask him about it, he will not talk to you. He seems very withdrawn.

**Suspect Abuse/Neglect**
Scenario 2: You are a caregiver and one day one of your three year olds comes to you limping. You ask the child what happened and if you could see what is hurting her. She says that he has been very bad and started to cry.

Suspect Abuse/Neglect
Scenario 4: You are a cook in a child care facility. There is a very sweet child who has a slight smile on his face each time you smile at him. You notice that for a number of weeks now he has brought nothing but a small butter and bread sandwich for lunch. He has no fruit or other food for lunch. He is extremely thin and you observe that he never buys milk that is sold by the school but instead has only water in his cup. The mother, who always comes to the facility with fancy clothes and jewelry has consistently ignored your inquiries into providing a more balanced meal for the child. The mother claims he is picky eater. You have offered him food occasionally when the school prepared too much. He seems grateful when you do this and gobbles the food right down.

**Suspect Neglect**
Scenario 5: The parents of one of the children in your program both work for an airline. In this family both do a lot of traveling but usually travel at different times. Unavoidable, they needed to be out of town at the same time and the children were cared for as usual by a woman who they hired about 4 months ago. The child came to your class very angry and would not play with her best friend. You notice that during the season when she would normally wear a short sleeved sundress, the child is wearing long pants and a long sleeved blouse on a hot summer day.

Suspect Abuse/Neglect
Scenario 6: When you change an infant’s diaper, you notice a yellow discharge and unhealthy odor. You report your observations to the parent that evening. The parent says it is nothing. You notice the same symptoms the rest of the week, write an incident report and suggest to the parents that a doctor look at the infant. The parent replies that money is not available and it will probably clear up soon. The following week you notice the same symptoms and report it to your Director who insists on medical treatment. Nothing happens this week.

Suspect Neglect – Lack of Medical Attention
Scenario 7: A coworker at your child care program just went through a divorce and is having financial problems. Over the last week, you heard her yelling and several of the children crying. You approach her about it and she says that the children were just misbehaving. Today a little boy from her class approaches you in tears and says that she made him stand in the dark closet for a long time.

Suspect Abuse/Neglect - Institutional
Now we are going to look at some interactions between the child, parent and their environment that can place children at risk for maltreatment. We will look at these risk factors in 3 categories:

- Child risk factors
- Parental and family risk factors
- Social and environmental risk factors
Risk Factors of Child Abuse and Neglect (p.17)

Child Risk Factors:

- Premature birth/birth defects
- Chronic or serious illness
- Physical, mental, or emotional disability
- Temperament - slow or difficulty warming up to others
- Aggression behavior problems
- ADD
- Childhood Drama
- A personal attribute/characteristics identified by a parent or undesirable
Risk Factors of Child Abuse and Neglect (p.17)

Parental/Family Risk Factors:

- Personality factors:
  - Feelings of insecurity
  - Lack of trust
  - Low tolerance for frustration
  - Poor impulse control
  - Controlling
  - Depression
- Childhood history of abuse
- Family structure (single parents)
- Social Isolation
- Marital Problems, Divorce
- Abuse – Alcohol/Drugs
- Death/illness

Lack of parenting skills
- Financial problems or unemployment
- Age
Social/Environmental Risk Factors:

- Stressful life or community (hurricanes)
- Low socioeconomic status/poverty
- Homelessness
- Lack of access to medical care, health care insurance, child care and social services
- Dangerous/violent neighborhood
- Community violence
- Cultural acceptance of abuse
Key Point

There are child, family and environmental factors that place children at risk for abuse and/or neglect.
# Child Abuse and Neglect

**Misconceptions and Reality Answers (p. 19-20)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Misconception</th>
<th>Reality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Child molesters are “dirty old men.”</td>
<td>A. There are no differences between the convicted child molester’s abilities and that of most of the general public.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Children are most likely to be sexually assaulted by a stranger.</td>
<td>B. Although child sexual abuse may involve subtle rather than extreme force, nearly all victims will experience confusion, shame, guilt, anger and lowered sense of self-esteem, though they may reveal no obvious outward signs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. The molester is retarded.</td>
<td>C. 95% of child molesters act alone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The child molester is an alcoholic or drug addict.</td>
<td>D. 75-95 percent of offenders are known by and may be related to the child.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. The child molester is a sexually frustrated person.</td>
<td>E. Only portions of abused boys go on to abuse children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. The child molester is insane.</td>
<td>F. Approximately 50% of convicted child molesters have no other criminal record.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. The child molester, over time, will progress to increasingly violent acts.</td>
<td>G. Drug use is essentially nonexistent with child molesters except to break down the child’s inhibitions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Children are at greater risk of sexual victimization from “gays” homosexuals) than from straight (heterosexuals) adults.</td>
<td>H. In developmental terms, young children cannot make up explicit sexual information: they must be exposed to it. They speak from their own experiences. Sometimes a parent will try to get a child to report sexual abuse falsely. Primary indicators of such a report are the child’s inability to describe explicitly or illustrate the act, or a grossly inconsistent account.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Child molesters work in groups.</td>
<td>I. 95% are not psychotic.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Child Abuse and Neglect
### Misconceptions and Reality Answers (p. 19-20)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10. Child molesters prefer very young children.</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Child molesters commit other crimes.</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
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<td>12. Children lie or fantasize about sexual activities with adults.</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. The sexual abuse of a child is an isolated, one-time incident.</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Nonviolent sexual behavior between a child and adult is not emotionally damaging to the child.</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Children provoke sexual abuse by their seductive behavior.</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. If children did not want sex, they could say “stop.”</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. When a boy is sexually abused, the molesting is perpetrated by male homosexuals.</td>
<td>J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Males who were sexually abused as boys all grow up to abuse children sexually.</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Most child sexual abuse is perpetrated by men who are heterosexual and do not find sex with other men at all attractive. Many child molesters abuse both boys and girls.</td>
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<tr>
<td>K. 50% of child molesters are married. Sexuality is not the only issue in pedophilia; identification, expression problems and the need for power and control are also issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>L. Child sexual abuse is usually a situation that develops gradually over a period of time, and the sexual abuse occurs repeatedly.</td>
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<td>M. Children generally do not question the behavior of adults. They are often coerced by bribes, threats and use of authority.</td>
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<td>N. 14% select children 5 years or younger. 46% select children between 6-11 age group. 33% select young adults. 7% choose various ages.</td>
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<td>O. In a recent study of convicted child molesters, 80 percent were found to have committed their first offense before the age of thirty.</td>
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<td>P. Seductive behavior may be the result but is never the cause of sexual abuse. The responsibility lies with the adult offender.</td>
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<td>Q. 51% of men selected female children 21% selected both sexes Females victimized 2-1 83% of child molesters are heterosexual</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. Only about 18% of child molesters show any increase in force used. 9% committed violent sexual assaults, 1% of those resulting in death.</td>
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# Child Abuse and Neglect

## Misconceptions and Reality Answers (p. 19-20)

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<td>1. O</td>
<td>10. N</td>
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<td>7. R</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Q</td>
<td>17. J</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. C</td>
<td>18. E</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The effects of child abuse and neglect can be serious and permanently affect children’s mental, physical and emotional development. Recent scientific studies of the brain reveal that the first years of a child’s life are critical to development. A child must receive adequate stimulation to ensure that nerve cells in the brain develop fully. Negative experiences, like trauma or abuse, are extremely detrimental in early years. The effects of abuse on a child can begin before a mother even gives birth.
Child Abuse and Neglect  p.21

The Impact of Trauma, Abuse, and Neglect

- Extreme anxiety
- Depression
- Inability to form healthy relationships
- Memory Loss
- Short attention span
- Easily distracted
- Poor self esteem
- Sleeping or eating disorder
Experiences throughout childhood can impair mental abilities that may cause a child to respond with aggression or violence to stressful or frustrating situations. The physical and emotional consequences of child abuse and neglect affect the child, family, caregiver, community and society.
Child Abuse and Neglect (p. 22)

- **Academic Problems:** school learning problems, truancy, underachievement
- **Behavior Problems:** passive or withdrawn, active or aggression, drug use
- **Sexual Problems:** sexually inappropriate behavior, poor self esteem
- **Confusion about Identity:** low self esteem, poor self image, loss of trust, depression
- **Medical/Mental Problems:** fertility problems, chronic pain, stress disorders
Key Point

The effects of child abuse and neglect can be serious and permanent to a child’s mental, physical and emotional development.
Working with Abused and Neglected Children

- Children who have been abused may not trust other people. Their experiences have shown them that getting close to people and trusting them causes discomfort and pain.
- These children need a close one-to-one relationship to develop and grow normally. They often reject warmth, hugs and affection at first.
- They may be slow in one or more areas of their development (motor, speech, and behavior.)
- Their behavior may be at one of two extremes: difficult to manage, destructive and irritable - or unusually shy and anxious to please.
- Abused and neglected children have very poor self-images. Important adults in their lives have had unrealistic expectations for these children, and they often are led to believe that they caused their own abuse.
- Parents of abused children may feel that you are a threat. They may be hostile and ungrateful toward you since they feel jealous, in competition, inadequate, or afraid you will learn their secrets.
It takes understanding, patience and skill to work with abused and neglected children.
Child Abuse and Neglect

Module 2: Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect
Mandatory Reporters

**Mandatory Reporter** - Any person, including, but not limited to, any:

a) **physician**, osteopathic physician, medical examiner, chiropractic physician, **nurse**, or hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of persons;

b) **health** or mental health professional other than (one listed in paragraph a);

c) **practitioner** who relies solely on spiritual means for healing;

d) **school teacher** or other school official or personnel;

e) **social worker**, child care worker, or other professional child care provider, foster care, residential, or institutional worker;

f) law enforcement officer; or

g) judge - who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or person responsible for the child’s welfare shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department (DCF) in the manner prescribed in subsection (2) of 39.201.
Mandatory Reporters

Although every person has a responsibility to report suspected abuse or neglect, some occupations are specified in Florida law as required to do so. These occupations are considered “mandatory reporters.” A mandatory reporter is required by Florida Statute to provide his or her name to the Abuse Hotline Counselor when reporting. A mandatory reporter’s name is entered into the record of the report but is held confidential (§ 39.202, F.S.).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCCUPATION</th>
<th>CHILD</th>
<th>ADULT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assisted Living Facility Staff</td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Day Care Center Staff</td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Family Care Home Staff</td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank, Savings and Loan, or Credit Union Officer, Trustee, or Employee</td>
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<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chiropractor/Chiropractic Physician</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day Care Center Worker</td>
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<td>Department of Business and Professional Regulation employees conducting inspections of public lodging establishments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Medical Technician</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida Advocacy Council Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foster Care Worker</td>
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<td>Hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of children and vulnerable adults.</td>
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<td>Health Professional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional Worker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-Term Care Ombudsman Council Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Examiner</td>
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<td>Mental Health Professional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing Home Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Osteopath/Osteopathic Physician</td>
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<td>Paramedic</td>
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<td>Physician</td>
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<td>Practitioner who relies solely on spiritual means for healing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Adult Care, Residential, or Institutional Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional Child Care Worker</td>
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<td>Residential Care Worker</td>
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<td>School Teacher</td>
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<td>School Official or Other School Personnel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Worker</td>
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<tr>
<td>State, County, or Municipal Criminal Justice Employee or Law Enforcement Officer</td>
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Child care workers are required by law to report child abuse and/or neglect.
As a child care provider it is your duty and your legal responsibility according to Chapter 39 F.S. to report any suspected case of child abuse or neglect. You don’t have to prove anything. That is the Investigator’s job. You should report that you suspect abuse or neglect to have occurred.
Three Ways to Report Abuse and Neglect: (page 31)

• **Telephone**
• **Fax**
• **TDD**

1-800-96ABUSE (1-800-962-2873)
The three ways abuse and neglect reports can be made to the Florida Abuse Hotline are: telephone, fax, and TDD.
REPORTER INFORMATION
This information is required for professionally mandated reporters – please refer to Chapter 39, Florida Statutes.

Your Last Name: ___________________________ Your First Name: ___________________________ Today’s Date: ___________________________
Your Occupation: ___________________________ Your Agency: ___________________________ Fax #: ___________________________ Phone #: ___________________________
Work Address: ___________________________ City: ___________________________ Zip Code: ___________________________ County: ___________________________ State: ___________________________
Alternate Contact Person: ___________________________ Title: ___________________________ Phone #: ___________________________

Would you like to be notified as to whether or not an abuse report was accepted based on the information provided? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, please indicate your preferred method of notification. ☐ Telephone or ☐ U. S. Mail

VICTIM INFORMATION
If the victim is a child, list other children and adult household members in the home. If any household members have a disability, describe the disability in the DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT section on page 2; if the victim is an adult, include how his/her ability to care for or protect self is impaired.

Current Location/Address: ___________________________ City: ___________________________ Zip Code: ___________________________ County: ___________________________ State: ___________________________
Home Address: ___________________________ Apt/Unit: ___________________________ City: ___________________________ Zip Code: ___________________________ County: ___________________________ State: ___________________________
Home Phone: ___________________________ Work Phone: ___________________________ Cell Phone: ___________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAST NAME</th>
<th>FIRST NAME</th>
<th>DOB</th>
<th>SEX</th>
<th>RACE</th>
<th>SSN</th>
<th>IS THIS PERSON A VICTIM?</th>
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PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLEGED ABUSE, NEGLECT, ABANDONMENT OR EXPLOITATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DOB</th>
<th>SEX</th>
<th>RACE</th>
<th>SSN</th>
<th>RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM</th>
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Revised 03/2006
Page 1
CONFIDENTIAL
Report Form

FLORIDA ABUSE HOTLINE Fax Transmittal Form

**DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT**
Please describe what happened, when and where the incident occurred, the frequency of occurrence, and a description of injuries and/or threat of harm.

**WHAT happened?**

**WHEN and WHERE did the incident occur?**

**Does anyone in the household have any disabilities?**

**Are there any dangers to a protective investigator?**

**Additional Addresses (e.g. day-care, school, etc.):**

**Description of injuries/threat of harm:**

**FOR ADULT VICTIMS ONLY:** Describe how the adult victim's ability to care for or protect self is impaired.

**OTHER INDIVIDUALS**
Please list others who might be aware of the abuse/neglect/exploitation of the victim.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>RELATIONSHIP TO THE VICTIM</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>HOME PHONE</th>
<th>WORK PHONE</th>
</tr>
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**DO NOT SEND COPIES OF MEDICAL NOTES, CASE FILES, ARREST REPORTS, OR SIMILAR DOCUMENTS.**
This form is used when you need to fax a report to the hotline. This form can also be used prior to making a phone call to insure you have gathered the most important information. Do not delay in contacting the abuse hotline even if you don’t have all the information.
Florida law ensures that confidentiality will be maintained for child care workers reporting suspected cases of child abuse and/or neglect.
Accusations of Child Abuse and Neglect  p.36

- Don’t become **defensive**.
- Cooperate fully and **factually** with authorities
- Get statements from colleagues about your **character**.
- Know the **laws** related to abuse and neglect
- Talk to a **lawyer** to ensure your rights and those of family members and helpers
- Remember that **protective policies** you have put in place such as your discipline procedures and incident report will help you
- Work with your **director** and **colleagues** to handle the impact of the accusation on the school, other parents and students
There are places to go within the community whose many functions provide support and preventative services to children and parents encountering child abuse and neglect. The resources also provide education to the community about child maltreatment issues.
Agencies/Resource p.37

**Child Protective Services (CPS)**

The designated social services agency (in most communities) to receive, investigate, and provide rehabilitation services to children and families with problems of child maltreatment.
Department of Children and Family (DCF)
Provides a spectrum of services to preserve and protect the well being of children and families
Law Enforcement and State Attorney’s Office

Investigates cases of child abuse and neglect and has victim advocacy programs to provide information and support through the legal system.
Medical Programs and Community Agencies

Places where staff provides attention to victims of child abuse and neglect and provides counseling for the abused, the abuser, or family members.
Agencies/Resource  p.38

Legal Agencies
Provide divorce, domestic violence injunctions, or guardian ad litem services

Communities
Have the responsibility to establish and maintain required resources and educate families and individuals on child abuse and neglect prevention
Individuals

Teach children about child abuse and neglect issues. You must be alert for signs of abuse or neglect. Give emotional support to victims of abuse and neglect and support to programs that work to prevent child maltreatment.
Key Point  p.38

There are local community resources that provide help for the abused and the abuser.
• Remain ignorant. Ignorance is 'bliss' for you or the parent or the child in the abuse situation. - (Do not)

• Be a friend to an abusive parent - (Do not)

• Lose your temper with an abusive parent. It only serves to put him/her on the defensive. - (Do not)

• Encourage the abusive parent to contact a community organization or service for help. - (Do)

• Wait to suggest that help is needed. - (Do not)

• Be observant and aware of characteristic signs of child abuse as seen in the child and parent. - (Do)

• Make excuses for child abuse or ignore the warning characteristics. - (Do not)
Do’s and Don’ts for Care Givers (p.39)

- Realize that abusive parents are in need of help and most often can be successfully treated. - (Do)
- Assume that all abusive parents are ‘bad’ and cannot be changed. - (Do not)
- Take action when you suspect or observe abuse and/or neglect, or the signs of possible abuse or neglect. - (Do)
- Be influenced by gossip or second hand information. It may serve only to involve innocent parties. - (Do not)
- Become involved and report any ‘suspected’ incident of child abuse to the authorities. The law states that if you do so in ‘good faith’ you cannot be prosecuted. - (Do)
- Be afraid to become involved - you may be the one to save a child’s life. - (Do not)
In Florida, the continuum of prevention and intervention services fall into many categories, such as:

- Parental support for expectant parents
- Postnatal education and support
- In-home education and support
- Early and regular educational, medical and psychological screening
- Medical and psychological services
- Child care
- Self-help groups
- Parent education and training
- Child safety training
- Family crisis and intervention support
- Treatment and intervention services
- Community organization
- Public information
- Legal action
A good resource for information is the Department of Children and Families child abuse website:

www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/