

RESOURCES

Prevent Child Abuse America
www.preventchildabuse.org
Local chapter (304)342-2485

Alliance for Children and Families
www.alliance1.org

Circle of Parents
www.circleofparents.org
Local Contact (304)523-9587

Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline
800-352-7096

Family Resource Centers, Inc.
800-835-5277

Resolve Family Abuse Program
800-352-6513

A-WAY-OUT
800-292-9688

National Child Abuse Hotline
800-422-4453

Connect Child Care
Resource & Referral

200 Upper Kanawha
Valley Way,
PO Box 369

Cabin Cree, WV
25035

Phone (304)595-6401
Fax (304)595-6402
www.wvdhhr.org/
connect

Signs of Child Abuse/Neglect

Parent Guide



POSSIBLE INDICATORS OF ABUSE/NEGLECT BY A PROVIDER

There are no standard behavioral patterns for children who are abused or neglected. A child's reaction to maltreatment is as individual as the child. There are however, some general signs that can alert a parent to abuse or neglect in a child care setting.

1. Behavior changes such as loss of appetite, tendency to overeat, onset of nightmares or bed-wetting, or child's expression a onset of intense fear to a care giver.
2. Signs of improper care such as child may tire or become completely detached from his environment, disturbed sleep patterns, child may develop severe diaper rash, vomit or become anemic.
3. Signs of sexual abuse are torn or stained clothing, abnormal walk, vaginal odor or discharge, possible trouble swallowing, and knowledge of sex unusual for a child their age.

SUPPORT A CHILD WHO TELLS ABOUT ABUSE

- Stay Calm
- Ensure that the child is, and feels safe.
- Tell the child that they are not to blame. It is not their fault.
- Tell and show the child that they have done the right thing to tell you.
- Do not promise that you will be able to keep secret the things the child has told you. Be honest and explain that it will be necessary to tell someone else.
- Keep questions to a minimum and ask only open questions: ie, After noticing a mark on a child ask: "How did that happen?" and not "Did Daddy do that?" which is a 'leading' question.
- Repeat back to the child what you have heard to check your understanding of what the child has told you.
- Write down what the child has told you as soon as possible after the event.
- Contact your local police department, child protective services and your local Resource and Referral Agency.

TIPS FOR BEING A NURTURING PARENT

One of the most important things you can do to prevent child abuse is to build a positive relationship with your own children.

Help your children feel loved and secure. We can all take steps to improve our relationship with our children by making sure your children know you love them even when they do something wrong, encourage your children, praise their achievements and talents, spend time with your children by doing things together that you all enjoy.

Seek help if you need it. Problems such as unemployment, marital tension, or a child with special needs can add to family tension. Parenting is a challenging job on its own. No one expects you to know how to do it all. If you think stress may be affecting the way you treat your child, or if you just want the extra support that all parents need at some point, try the following:

Talk to someone. Tell a friend, healthcare provider, or a leader in your community about your concerns.

Get Counseling. Individual or family counseling can help you learn healthy ways to communicate with each other.

Accept help. You don't have to do it all. Accept offers of help from friends and family. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it.