

Supporting a Child

Children need reassurance that they are worthwhile and have done nothing wrong. It is important for child care providers to provide the following for a child who has disclosed abuse or neglect:

Security

The child needs to know that she/he can trust you and that her/his disclosure will not be made public. She/he needs to know that you will remain supportive.

Structure

The child needs routine. This provides for a sense of security and may be the only structure provided in his/her life. After the child is more confident, she/he will need less direction from you.

Consistency and Predictability

The child needs to know, in advance, that you have expectations of her/him and what these expectations are. Be consistent in your relationship with her/him.

Identity

A child who has been abused will usually suffer from poor self-image. Share positive feedback and praise with the child to help develop a positive self-image.

Sense of Belonging

The child will often lack confidence and pull away from her/his peers. Help her/him become part of the group. Praise and encourage group involvement.



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Reporting Child Abuse

A Guide for Utah Day Care Providers



Reporting Child Abuse

Utah Child Abuse Reporting Law

The law requires:

- Any person who has reason to believe a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect to immediately notify the nearest Utah Division of Child and Family Services or law enforcement agency.
- Any person who observes a child being subjected to conditions that would result in abuse or neglect to immediately notify the nearest Utah Division of Child and Family Services or law enforcement agency.

Failure to obey this law constitutes a class "B" misdemeanor and is punishable by up to six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine. Utah Code Ann. 62A-4a-411 (1994)

Making A Report

The best way to help stop child abuse is to report it. All reports to the Utah Division of Child and Family Services and the Department of Health remain strictly confidential.

Any person making a report in good faith is immune from any liability.

Once a report is received, the case is assigned a priority depending on the seriousness of the abuse and the risk to the child.

Licensing standards require compliance with the Child Abuse Reporting Law and staff of the Department of Health. The Department of Health will investigate violations of abuse and failure to report by providers.

Indicators of Child Abuse

If a child talks about being abused, take him or her seriously. Some possible indicators of abuse may include:

Physical Abuse

Physical Indicators

- unexplained bruises
- unexplained burns
- confinement
- unexplained welts

Behavioral Indicators

- Easily Frightened
- Wary of Physical contact
- Afraid to go home
- Destructive to others or self

Sexual Abuse

Physical Indicators

- bed-wetting
- soiling
- chronic constipation

Behavioral Indicators

- Withdrawal or depression
- Passive behavior
- Aggressive behavior
- poor self esteem
- lack of eye contact with adults
- knowledge of sexual acts beyond their years

Emotional Abuse

Physical Indicators

- delayed physically
- ulcers
- developmental lags

Behavioral Indicators

- Poor self-esteem
- Difficulty expressing feelings
- Problems with relationships
- Habit disorders

Neglect

Physical Indicators

- abandonment
- thin, starvation
- lack of supervision
- lack of medical care
- frequent absent or tardy
- poor hygiene

Behavioral Indicators

- Steals, begs
- Self Destructive
- Failure to thrive

It Happens Too Often

2015 Child Abuse Statistics

- Five children die every day in the U.S. because of child abuse.
- 20,614 child abuse referrals were reported to Utah DCFS.
- 34% of those referrals were substantiated.
- During FY 2015, Sexual Abuse was the most frequently supported allegation category.*

*2015 Utah Division of Child and Family Services Annual Report

Help Stop Child Abuse

Alert day care providers can identify the early signs and symptoms of child abuse and take the first step toward helping children and families.

Remember, you only need to have reason to believe abuse has occurred. To report, call your local DCFS or law enforcement agency.

Reporting Hotline 1-855-323-3237

With your help, we can make a difference!