

## STUDENTS

### Child Abuse and Neglect

Staff members must report every instance of suspected abuse or neglect. Sample indicators of abuse and neglect are listed below. However, since protection of children is the paramount concern, staff members should discuss any suspected evidence with the building principal or school nurse regardless of whether the condition is listed among the sample indicators.

Staff members are reminded of their legal obligation to make such reports and of the immunity from potential liability for doing so.

1. Reporting Procedure: The following procedures are to be used in reporting instances of suspected child abuse.
  - A. When there is reasonable cause to believe that a student has suffered abuse or neglect, staff members shall immediately contact the nearest office of the Child protective Services of the Department of Social and Health Services. (24 hours—800-557-9671 or 509-585-3000.) If this agency cannot be reached, the report shall be submitted to the police, sheriff, or prosecutor’s office. In all cases, a report must be made within 48 hours.
    1. Staff members shall report instances of suspected abuse or neglect to the building principal or designee.
    2. If feasible, the principal or designee shall interview the child to find out if there seems to be a reasonable explanation of the conditions or circumstances.
    3. If there is reasonable likelihood of abuse or neglect, the principal or designee shall immediately phone a report to the nearest office of CPS.
    4. Principal or designee will notify district-designated official of action.
    5. The principal on behalf of a staff member may inquire about the outcome of reports of cases of suspected abuse or neglect. Staff members will not disseminate or release information about the outcomes of reports except as authorized by state or federal statute.
2. Sample Indicators of Observable Abuse of a Child
  - A. Bilateral bruises, extensive bruises, bruises of different ages, patterns of bruises cause by a particular instrument (belt buckle, wire, straight edge, coat hanger, etc.).

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- B. Burn patterns consistent with forced immersion in a hot liquid (a distinct boundary line where the burn stops), burn patterns consistent with a spattering by hot liquids, patterns caused by a particular kind of implement (electric iron, etc.) or instrument (circular cigarette burns, etc.).
- C. Lacerations, welts, abrasions.
- D. Injuries inconsistent with information offered by child.
- E. Injuries inconsistent with the child's age.
- F. Sexual abuse, whether physical injuries are sustained or not, is any act or acts involving sexual molestation or exploitation, including, but not limited to incest, rape, carnal knowledge, sodomy or unnatural or perverted sexual practices. Indicators include:
  - 1. Child having difficulty sitting down.
  - 2. Child refusing to change into gym clothes (when he/she has been willing to change clothes in the past).
  - 3. Child running away from home and not giving any specific complaint about what is wrong at home.
  - 4. Young child daydreaming to an excessive degree—almost out of touch.
  - 5. Child “dropping” lots of questions to school nurse about how pregnancy occurs.

3. Sample Indicators of Observable of a Child

- A. Lack of basic needs (food, clothing, shelter).
- B. Inadequate supervision (unattended).
- C. Lack of essential health care and high incidence of illness.
- D. Lack of experiences that produce feelings of being loved, wanted, secure (emotional neglect).
- E. Irregular school attendance.
- F. Long working hours.
- G. Continuous friction in the home, martial discord, mentally ill parents.

NOTE: The above examples do not prove that abuse or neglect has actually occurred, but provides evidence for further investigation.