

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

CHILD ABUSE

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE WE BEGIN...

- ▶ -If you have a question or comment, please save those for a one-on-one conversation with your teacher or counselor.
- ▶ -There are different levels of abuse. It is NOT your responsibility to define what level of abuse is occurring. This is a job for an adult.
- ▶ -Reporting is important to keep you safe. Your teachers and counselors are here to help you.

DEFINITION OF CHILD ABUSE

- ▶ physical maltreatment or sexual molestation of a child

MALTREATMENT

- ▶ Many States recognize four major types of maltreatment in their definitions, including neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse

4 TYPES OF ABUSE/MALTREATMENT

- ▶ Neglect
- ▶ Physical abuse
- ▶ Emotional abuse
- ▶ Sexual abuse/molestation

NOT MEETING A CHILD'S BASIC NEEDS, INCLUDING THE FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE, SUPERVISION, CLOTHING, NUTRITION, AND HOUSING IS...

NEGLECT

INTENTIONAL USE OF FORCE AGAINST THE CHILD THAT CAUSES HARM FOR THE CHILD'S HEALTH, SURVIVAL, DEVELOPMENT OR DIGNITY.

THIS INCLUDES HITTING, BEATING, KICKING, SHAKING, BITING, STRANGLING, SCALDING, BURNING, POISONING AND SUFFOCATING. MUCH PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN THE HOME IS INFLICTED WITH THE OBJECT OF PUNISHING

THESE ARE EXAMPLES OF...

PHYSICAL

ABUSE

-NAME CALLING

-INSULTING

-THREATENING VIOLENCE (EVEN WITHOUT CARRYING OUT THREATS)

-ALLOWING CHILDREN TO WITNESS THE PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL ABUSE OF ANOTHER

-WITHHOLDING LOVE, SUPPORT, OR GUIDANCE

THESE ACTIONS CAN CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH AND ARE CONSIDERED...

EMOTIONAL

ABUSE

WHEN AN ADULT OR OLDER ADOLESCENT USES A CHILD FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

- ENGAGING IN SEXUAL ACTIVITIES WITH A CHILD
- INDECENT EXPOSURE (REVEALING PRIVATE PARTS TO A CHILD)
- USING A CHILD TO PRODUCE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

SEXUAL

ABUSE

REPORTING ABUSE...

- ▶ Reminder: There are different levels to abuse and it is NOT the child's job to decide what level of abuse they are suffering. This is the role of a trusted adult.

REPORTING ABUSE...

- ▶ “Why does it have to be an adult?”
 - ▶ This kind of information can be difficult for your same-aged friends to understand. A trusted adult will know the best way to help you.

REPORTING ABUSE...

- ▶ “How do I know if it needs to be reported?”
 - ▶ If the event is causing significant stress or harm to you or someone you know, it should be reported. The person you report to will decide what follow-up action is necessary.

REPORTING ABUSE

- ▶ “But how do I report something?”
 - ▶ Make plans to talk to a trusted adult
 - ▶ Let the adult know that this is something urgent. We trust at your age that you know what is truly urgent. If you are in an urgent situation and the adult is not making time for you, you may need to approach a different adult.
 - ▶ If you need another person to accompany you when you report, that person should be another trusted adult (not a peer).

REPORTING ABUSE

- ▶ “What’s going to happen?”
 - ▶ It depends. Sometimes, the information will need to be shared with specialists who are trained to help in abuse situations. These people might be police officers, social workers, or health/safety officials.

REPORTING ABUSE...

- ▶ “This is all confusing and kind of scary.”
 - ▶ Yes, it is. But the goal of reporting is to make things less scary, less confusing, and less harmful. It can be uncomfortable to report an event and it could lead to some changes—sometimes the changes are big and sometimes they are not—but the goal is always to keep kids safe.

IN CLOSING...

you're not a victim for
sharing your story.
you are a survivor setting
the world on fire with your truth.

and you never know
who needs your light, your
warmth, and raging courage.

[alex elle]

don't be ashamed
of your story — it will
inspire others.

[anonymous]