

Chapter 7 Lesson 3: Help for Families

Introduction

Abuse is one of the most serious crises a family can face. On the Web site below, you will learn more about the forms abuse can take. You will also learn how to tell if someone is being abused and what steps you can take to report abuse.

Links to Explore:

Help Guide

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/signs.cfm>

Directions

- First, click on the link and read through the fact sheet on the different kinds of abuse.
 - At the bottom of the page, click on the link marked “Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect: Signs and Symptoms” and read through the fact sheet on warning signs of abuse.
 - When you have read both fact sheets, answer these questions:
1. What is the definition of child abuse?
 2. What are the four main types of abuse?
 3. List three symptoms of physical abuse in a child.
 4. List three signs of emotional abuse in a child.
 5. What can you do if you suspect a child is being abused?

Answers:

1. Child abuse is any act or failure to act that causes serious harm, or creates an imminent risk of serious harm, to a child or teen.
2. The four main types of abuse are:
 - Neglect
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Emotional abuse
3. Any three of the following:
 - Unexplained burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, or black eyes
 - Fading bruises or other marks noticeable after an absence from school
 - Seeming afraid of his or her parents and crying when it is time to go home
 - Shrinking at the approach of adults
 - Reporting injury by a parent or other adult caregiver
4. Any three of the following:
 - Extremes in behavior (overly aggressive or overly passive)
 - Age-inappropriate behavior (excessively adult or excessively infantile)
 - Delayed in physical or emotional development
 - Attempted suicide
 - Lack of attachment to parents
5. Contact your local child protective services agency or police department or call the a National Child Abuse Hotline.

Additional Links to Explore:

Use the links below to gather additional information on the activity topic. When appropriate, have students extend their research to include important concepts contained in these Web sites.

Physical and Behavioral Indicators of Abuse

http://www.nationalcac.org/families/for_workers/abuse_indicators.html

Long-Term Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect

http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/long_term_consequences.cfm

Child Help

<http://www.childhelp.org/>