

No Just a Little Hurt Child Abuse

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Objectives

- Identify common signs of child abuse
- List the types of child abuse
- Know the appropriate response to suspected child abuse
- Identify community support for child abuse victims.



Definition

- Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act of failure to act which presents an imminent risk or serious harm ⁽³⁾



Statistics

- Every year 3 million Reports of child abuse are made
 - Up to 6 million children
 - 1 report can represent multiple children
- Report of child abuse and neglect is made every 10 seconds
- 5 children die daily of child abuse and/or neglect
- 2010 - 14,887 referrals for abuse and neglect
 - Increase of 0.8% over last count in 2006.
- Number of Children investigated for maltreatment: 9,010 (2011) Idaho





More

- The Most vulnerable
 - 25% under the age of 3
 - 45% of abuse children are under the age of 5
- Children who die of abuse or neglect
 - 70.3% younger than 3
 - 44.4% younger than the age of 1 ⁽¹⁾



CHILD ABUSE *does not* DISCRIMINATE *on the* BASIS of:



Types of Child Abuse

- Neglect
- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional



Risk Factors

Children

- Children with special health care needs
- Children with chronic illness
- Children with physical or developmental disabilities
 - These children are seen as more difficult to care for or in contrast of the parents expectations

Caregiver

- Low self-esteem
- Poor impulse control
- Substance abuse
 - Caregiver characteristics
 - Age
 - Low educational achievement
 - Mental illness
 - History of abuse themselves



Signs Suggestive of Child Abuse

- Bruises
 - Torso, Ears, or Neck
 - Patterned marks
 - Are they consistent with developmental age?
 - 2 yr old with bruising on the shins
 - 4 month old with bruising on the shins
- Organ injury
 - Spleen or liver lacerations
- Burns
 - Uniform
 - Immersion patterns
- Multiple Fractures
 - At one time or over an extended time frame
- Facility Shopping
 - Very aware of facilities and who may be working
- Abuse may be inflicted
 - Hitting
 - Pinching
 - Belts
 - Cigarettes burns
 - Fist/hands
 - Whips
 - Other objects





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Case Studies

- Scalding

- EMS responded to a mother's call stating her 18 month child was scalded on the back while in the shower.

- Arrival -- blisters on the shoulders down the back to the bum
- Mother repeatedly stated she was showering with her child when the infant was burned
- Mother states they have a new solar hot water heater.
 - Your response



Possible Sign of Abuse

Neglect

- Not Providing
 - Adequate food and clothing
 - Appropriate Medical Care
 - Supervision
 - Proper Weather protection
 - Abandonment
 - Safe environment
- Possible behavior demonstrated by the child
 - Stealing food
 - Constant Fatigue
 - Inappropriate seeking attention



Additional Forms of Abuse



- Educational
 - Failure to provide appropriate schooling
 - Failure to provide special education
 - Allowing excessive truancies
- Emotional
 - Lack of any emotional support and love
 - Never attending to the child
 - Spouse abuse
 - Drug and alcohol abuse
 - Allowing the child to participate in use

Assessment through interaction

Observation

- The Child

- Unusual watchfulness
- Excessive compliance
- Withdrawal
- Timidity
- Anxiety
- Comforting Caregiver

- Caregiver

- Rarely touches the child
- States they do not like the child
- Child anger toward caregiver
- Caregiver rarely touches the child
- Demanding behavior not consistent with developmental age



Bottom Line

- Does the **description match** with the developmental age of the child?
 - You are called to the scene where a 4 month old boy is not breathing:
 - Mother explains that the 3 y/o son was bouncing on the bed and fell on the 4 month old who was crawling. The infant cried for a while then she placed him in bed. She checked on him about a hour later. Since he was a little blue, she called 911



State Initiatives

- Crying plan Idaho Initiative
 - Caregiver plan
 - Discharge to home
 - Alternative to
 - Shaking
 - Hitting
 - Smothering
 - Plan Shared to all care givers
 - Tips of remaining calm



Sexual Abuse

Any sexual act with a child performed by an adult or an older child.

- 1 to 4 girls
- 1 in 6 boys
 - sexually abused before age 18.

- Symptoms
 - Noticeable fear of a person or certain place
 - Unusual response when asked if he/she was touched
 - Unreasonable fear of being examined
 - Drawings that show sexual acts
 - Abrupt changes in behavior



Community Services

- SANE nurses
 - Sexual Assault Nurse Exam
 - Pediatric trained nurses who will examine any child suspected of sexual abuse
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center
 - Crisis Intervention
 - Advocacy
 - Education
 - Support services



Case Studies

- Nathaniel 7 y/o
- You are called because he collapsed at church on Sunday.
 - Your findings
 - Bruised ears, discoloration over ribs, GCS4, non-responsive. Grandmother says he was acting slower than normal.
 - You intubate and take Nathaniel to the ED
 - What are your concerns?



Continuation of Case Study

- Nathaniel
 - In the ED you undress Nathaniel and notice he has abrasions on his penis and burns on his wrist.
 - He is transferred to the PICU

Discussion



Your Responsibility

- Protect yourself
- Treat the child
- Listen, do not search for answers
 - What happened
 - Not who did this
- Stay impartial
 - easy to say—hard to do
- Identify YOUR support system
- Report your concerns
 - Remember majority of children abused are less than 5 years old
 - 60% of reported suspected child abuse are from school teachers
 - What about those who are younger than school age?



There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children. Nelson Mandela



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Questions



Thank You

