



# What is child abuse exactly?

The mistreatment/maltreatment of a  
child by an adult

# Types of Child Abuse

- ☐ Physical
- ☐ Sexual
- ☐ Neglect
- ☐ Emotional or Psychological abuse

# Physical Abuse

An injury intentionally inflicted on a child by a caregiver, parents, or anyone residing in the child's home.

# Sexual Abuse

The use of a child for sexual gratification or financial gain, by an adult, older child, or adolescent, whether by physical force, coercion, or persuasion.

# Neglect

Acts or omissions by the perpetrator that fail to meet the child's needs for basic living, including food, hygiene, medical care, clothing, and a safe warm environment.

# Emotional or psychological abuse

Verbal abuse or excessive demands on the child that result in impaired growth, negative self-image, and disturbed child behavior.

# Types of Child Abuse

- ❑ Neglect – 63%
- ❑ Physical – 19%
- ❑ Sexual – 10%
- ❑ Emotional – 8%





# Examples of Physical Abuse:



- ☐ Hitting
- ☐ Choking
- ☐ Shaking
- ☐ Kicking
- ☐ Missing or loosened teeth

- ☐ Biting
- ☐ Burning
- ☐ Slapping
- ☐ Beating
- ☐ Injuries inflicted with objects

Definition: non-accidental injury of a child that leaves marks, scars, bruises, or broken bones.

**Physical indicators:**

unexplained bruises,  
burns, human bites,  
broken bones,  
missing hair,  
scratches.

**Behavioral indicators of physical abuse:**

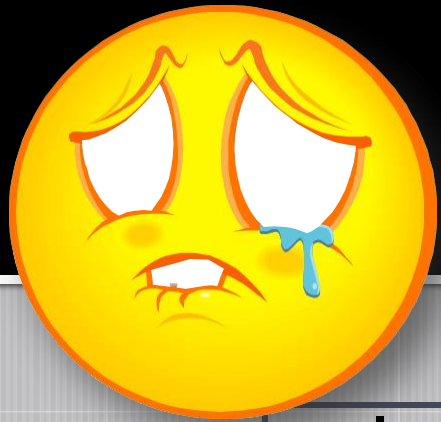
wary of physical contact with adults, behavioral extremes (aggressive or withdrawn), frightened of parents, afraid to go home, cheating, stealing, lying (a sign that expectations in the home are too high), layered clothing.

# Emotional Abuse

**Definition:** parental behavior, such as rejecting, terrorizing, ignoring, or isolating a child.

□ **Physical indicators of emotional abuse:** speech disorders, lags in physical development, failure to thrive.

□ **Behavioral indicators of emotional abuse:** habit disorders (sucking, biting, rocking), conduct disorders (withdrawal, destructiveness, cruelty), sleep disorders or inhibition of play, behavior extremes (aggressive or passive).



# Examples of Emotional Abuse

- ☐ Ignores child's physical/emotional needs
- ☐ Rejection/withdrawal of love
- ☐ Terrorizes/threatens child
- ☐ Cruel, bizarre/inconsistent punishment
- ☐ Isolates/restricts child for long periods
- ☐ Denies child food, shelter, or sleep as a punishment
- ☐ Corrupts child by encouraging antisocial/unacceptable behavior

# Sexual Abuse

- **Definition:** any inappropriate sexual exposure or touch by an adult to a child or an older child to a younger child.
- **Physical indicators of sexual abuse:** difficulty in walking or sitting, torn, stained, or bloody underclothing, pain or itching in genital area, bruises or bleeding in rectal/genital area, venereal disease.
- **Behavioral indicators of sexual abuse:** age-inappropriate sexual knowledge/sexual touch, abrupt change in personality, withdrawn, poor peer relationships, unwilling to change for gym or participate in physical activities, promiscuous behavior/seductive behavior, drop in school performance/decline in school interest, sleep disturbances, regressive behavior (i.e., bed wetting).

# Examples of Sexual Abuse:

- Showing pornographic materials
- Touching sexual organs
  - (of the child or the adult)
- Attempted or actual sexual intercourse
- Child prostitution
- Incest

# Neglect

**Definition:** failure of parents or caretakers to provide needed, age appropriate care including food, clothing, shelter, protection from harm, hygiene, and medical care.

□ **Physical indicators of neglect:** constant hunger, poor hygiene, excessive sleepiness, lack of appropriate supervision, unattended physical problems or medical needs, abandonment, inappropriate clothing for weather conditions.

□ **Behavioral indicators of neglect:** begging or stealing food, frequent sleepiness, lack of appropriate supervision, unattended physical problem or medical needs, abandonment, inappropriate clothing for weather conditions.

# Who Abuses Children?

## Where Does it Happen?

- Most often, the abuser is someone the child knows, such as a parent, neighbor, someone work at home or relative.
  - Child abuse usually happens in the child's home. Sometimes it happens in other settings, such as child-care centers and even schools.
- National Figures
- 74 % Natural Parent
  - 10% Step-parent or de facto
  - 7% Other relative or sibling
  - 5% Friend or neighbors
  - 4 % Others (including strangers)



# WHY THEY DO THAT?:

- Abused as a child
- Single parent
- Spouse is gone much of the time
- Family conflicts
- Divorce
- Alcohol or other drugs

- Emotional immaturity
- Postpartum depression
- Unrealistic expectations
- Stress of unemployment
- Mental illness
- Low self-esteem

# Who get abused the most?

- ☐ Behavior problems
- ☐ Medical problems
- ☐ Prematurity
- ☐ Disability
- ☐ Non-biological relationship to caretaker

# Characteristic of Abuse

- ❑ Repetitive pattern of injury
- ❑ Injuries not consistent with story
- ❑ Presence of other signs of abuse
- ❑ Unusual behavior of parent
- ❑ Incidental discovery of injury

# Characteristics of Potentially Abusive Neglectful Adults

- Poor parenting skills
- Unreasonable expectations for child
- Undue fear of spoiling child
- Parental attitudes/religious beliefs in necessity for harsh physical discipline
- Multi-generational history of violence or domestic abuse
- Stresses such as marital problem, presence of extended family members, lack of social contract, unemployment, poor housing and financial problems
- Severe emotional pressure or mental illness

# The 5 R's

- ☐ Raise the issue
- ☐ Reach out to kids and parents in your community
- ☐ Remember the risk factors

- ☐ Recognize the warning signs
- ☐ Report suspected abuse or neglect

Survivors of child abuse and neglect may be at greater risk for problems later in life—such as low academic achievement, drug abuse, teen pregnancy, and criminal behavior— that affect not just the child and family, but society as a whole.

# Reporting of Abuse

- Approximately 3 million reports of possible maltreatment are made to child protective service agencies each year.
- The actual incidence of abuse and neglect is estimated to be three times greater than the number reported to

# What to do...

- ❑ Don't try to conduct an investigation, yourself.
- ❑ If the child tells you of the sexual abuse immediately after it occurred, DO NOT bathe the child, or wash or change his or her clothes.
- ❑ Let the child talk as much as he or she wishes.
- ❑ Understand that the child is probably having mixed feelings.
- ❑ Believe the child.

❑ Explain what you will do next to help them



# Prevention

- ❑ Never discipline your child when your anger is out of control.
- ❑ Participate in your child's activities and get to know your child's friends.
- ❑ Never leave your child unattended, especially in the car.
- ❑ Teach your child the difference between "good touches" and "bad touches."
- ❑ When your child tells you he or she doesn't want to be with someone, this could be a red flag. Listen to them and believe what they say.
- ❑ Be aware of changes in your child's behavior or attitude.
- ❑ Teach your child what to do if you and your child become separated while away from home.
- ❑ Pay attention when someone shows greater than normal interest in your child.
- ❑ Make certain your child's school or day care center will release him/her only to you or someone you officially designate.

They don't want to hear  
the truth because the  
truth is so much harder  
to understand”  
(Fiona, 12 years)

“...Child abuse will only  
stop when children like  
me become important to  
everyone...”  
(Josh, 9 years)



# THANK YOU...

