

What Is Child Abuse

CHILD ABUSE OVERVIEW

Child abuse and neglect can create a lifetime of harmful effects on its victims. Studies show that child abuse and neglect can impact a child negatively throughout their lifetime. It can have harmful effects on school performance, development of health relationships, and create issues that can impact an entire community. Child abuse is any physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or other act involving a child with intent to harm the child. Child abuse can take the form of physical abuse, emotional or mental abuse, sexual assault, or neglect. You can help prevent abuse by becoming familiar with abuse and neglect and recognizing the signs.

TYPES OF ABUSE

Physical Abuse. Any non-accidental physical injury to a child that can include striking, kicking, burning, or biting, or other actions that result in physical harm to a child.

Sexual Abuse or Exploitation. Any sexual act performed with a child by an adult or older child, with or without force or the threat of force. Child sexual abuse can involve touching or non-touching, verbal seduction or abuse, intercourse, or direct or implied threats. Exploitation includes engaging children in prostitution or the production of child pornography.

Incest. Sexual contact or acts between people who are related genetically, by marriage, by living arrangements, or in whom a child perceives a trusting relationship.

Emotional Abuse. Behavior intent on harming the psychological or emotional capacity of a child. This can include withholding affection, threatening a child, or rejection.

Neglect. Failure to meet a child's basic needs, such as housing, food, clothing, education, and medical care to a degree that threatens the child's health, safety, and well-being.

REPORTING ABUSE

If you suspect that a child is a victim of abuse take action to save a child. You may report the suspected abuse by contacting your local county Department of Human Resources or Police department.

APEC IS HERE TO HELP

APEC provides free training, information, and consultation to families. Visit our training calendar for more information about learning opportunities at www.alabamaparentcenter.com or call our center.

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Alabama Parent Education Center 

PO Box 118 * Wetumpka AL, 36092 * 334-567-2252 * 866-532-7660

www.alabamaparentcenter.com

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