

Play "What if" games with your children about dangerous situations they may encounter with: strangers, child care people, acquaintances, and loved ones.

BELIEVE YOUR CHILD AND DO NOT BLAME HIM/HER FOR WHAT HAPPENED UPON DISCLOSURE OF SEXUAL ABUSE.

HELP FOR TROUBLED FAMILIES

Detecting and Reporting a case of child abuse to the people who can help are vital steps.

Immediate Treatment must be given for urgent problems, such as physical injury, malnourishment, and serious neglect.

Support Services from a visiting nurse, homemaker, social worker, concerned friend, relative or family member are life-savers.

Extended Counseling for children and parents is a must. Because abuse develops over a long time, it requires long term professional treatment.

CHILD ABUSE LAW

The Kansas Code for the Care of Children (K.S.A. 38-1522) requires that suspected cases of child abuse and/or neglect **must** be reported by dentists, optometrists, doctors, nurses, psychologists, psychotherapists, teachers, school administrators or other school employees, chief administrative officers of medical care facilities, therapists, counselors, child care service providers, social workers, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, juvenile intake and assessment workers, and law enforcement officers to the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and/or local law enforcement.

You have a responsibility by law to report any child abuse to your local law enforcement agency or to the nearest Social and Rehabilitation Services office.

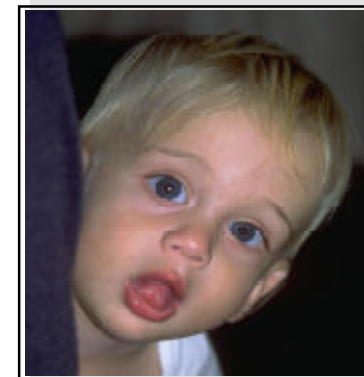
Counselors are ready to help parents and youth in any crisis.

Parent Helpline
1-800-332-6378



It shouldn't hurt to be a child

This was printed for the citizens of the State of Kansas by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, in cooperation with our local law enforcement agencies.



Abused children are helpless - unless you help.

CHILD ABUSE

DEFINITION

Child abuse is an injury or a pattern of injuries to a child that is non-accidental.

FACTS ABOUT CHILD ABUSE

- Child abuse, contrary to popular belief, occurs in all cultural, ethnic, occupational, and socioeconomic groups.
- National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect estimates over two million children are abused or neglected each year.
- Abuse is a vicious circle - usually passed on from generation to generation.
- Almost 2,000 children die from child abuse and neglect every year.
- Abusers can be friends, neighbors, and relatives.
- Parents are the most frequent child abusers.
- The most common cause of death in children under age six is due to child abuse.
- One out of every four children will experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18.
- Offenders will continue to abuse without intervention and treatment.
- Most abusive parents are "Normal." Relatively few are "Criminal" or mentally unbalanced.

TYPES OF CHILD ABUSE

PHYSICAL:

Shaking, beating, burning, failure to provide the necessities of life (e.g., adequate food).

EMOTIONAL:

Failure to provide warmth, attention, supervision, normal living experiences.

VERBAL:

Abuse characterized by constant verbal harassment and denigration of a child. Excessive yelling, belittling, teasing.

SEXUAL:

Child abuse which results in any act of a sexual nature upon or with a child. Incest, other indecent sexual activity in the family.

As a result of abuses, some children may never be able to love or trust anyone. Injuries may result in permanent crippling, deformity or in some habitually abused children's cases, even death.



**Child abuse
hurts everyone.**

INDICATORS OF CHILD ABUSE

- Appear to be different from other children either in physical or emotional makeup.
- They may often bear welts, bruises, burns, and other skin injuries.
- Some are wary of physical contact.
- They may exhibit a sudden change in behavior.
- They have learning problems that can not be diagnosed.
- Habitually truant, or late from school.
- Loss of appetite.
- Unexplainable fears.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST SEXUAL ABUSE

Teach children that they have the right to say no if they don't want to be touched, even by relatives.

Be a helpful listener and encourage your child to tell you what seems embarrassing or fearful.

Discuss sexual issues in an open and straightforward manner with your children.

Teach children early that their bodies are special and private.

Be careful whom you employ as a babysitter.