

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention



In the United States, all youth, regardless of their immigration status, are protected under the law. These laws aim to keep children free from exploitation, harm, and danger.

Child abuse is an act or failure to act by a parent or caregiver that results in physical or psychological harm to a child, that poses a serious risk to them. There are four types of abuse:

- **Physical Abuse** – the use of physical violence to discipline a child, often resulting in physical injury
- **Verbal Abuse** – threats, insults, or disdain towards a child
- **Emotional Abuse** – denying emotional support, love, or care to a child
- **Sexual Abuse** – harassing, touching, raping, or sexually exploiting a child

Neglect is the failure to meet a child's physical (such as clothing, food, or shelter), emotional, educational, or medical needs.

If you are a parent or caregiver of a child here are some tips to prevent child abuse:

- Learn about appropriate child behaviors according to their age.
- Provide healthy habits for the children in your care. Denying food, a good night's rest, or medical attention to children is neglect.
- Develop parenting skills and appropriate discipline techniques.
- Take care of yourself: find someone to talk to, take a break, or reach out to a parenting support line.

There are people who, due to their profession, are legally required to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to the relevant authorities. These include social workers, teachers, educators, counselors and therapists, and medical professionals.

For children and teenagers: If you are being abused, mistreated, or neglected, you can seek help at your school, police stations, fire stations, clinics, or by reaching out to a trusted adult. You can also call the **National Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-422-4453)** for help.

If you are interested in more information, visit our Unaccompanied Children Resource Center: ucresourcecenter.org.