

Know Your Responsibility

Law requires that anyone who SUSPECTS a child is being mistreated report the matter to Protective Services or the Police. In cases of child neglect anyone may report the suspected neglect but professionals are required to do so. And, any person who in good faith makes a report of abuse or neglect is immune from any civil liability or criminal penalty.

The Kiddie Academy of _____ upon notification of a child's involvement in a Child Protective Services investigation, will cooperate with Child Protective Services, Department of Social Services regarding the welfare of the child.

The following information is provided so that you will be familiar with the physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and neglect. Please note that the presence of any of these indicators does not necessarily mean a child is being abused or neglected. They may, however, lead you to suspect abuse or neglect and therefore report it.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical Indicators

Bruises: on any infant; facial bruises; in unusual patterns; clustered in one area of the body; in various stages of healing; both eyes "blackened" with no injury to the nose.

Burns: caused by immersion in hot liquid; cigarette burns usually on palms of hands (leaving "crater" shaped burns); caused by hot implement such as electric iron or curling iron (leaving burn marks in the shape of implement).

Welts, cuts, abrasions and fractures may also indicate abuse. Since these injuries may occur through normal childhood experiences they should only cause concern when coupled with some other physical or behavioral indicator. You should also be concerned if the injury does not seem likely, given the child's age and physical development.

Behavioral Indicators

Child: overly compliant, or shy, or aggressive behavior; avoids parents; inhibited crying hyperactive; avoids physical contact; low frustration tolerance; distrustful.

Parent: holds unrealistic expectation for the child's physical or emotional development; "immature"; dependant; belligerent; aggressive; low sense of self-esteem.

NEGLECT

Physical Indicators

Child: Extremely dirty and unkempt; clothes inadequate for the weather; medical problems left untreated; inadequately supervised; undernourished.

Behavioral Indicators

Child: Withdrawn; shy; passive; always tired; developmentally slow.

Parents: Apathetic; shows little concern for the child; angers when questioned about child's care; impulsive in decision making; inconsistent disciplinary practices.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Physical Indicators

Child: Difficulty in sitting or walking; repeated symptoms of medical problems with the genitals, or digestive system; venereal disease; pregnancy.

Behavioral Indicators

Child: Unusual sexual behavior or knowledge; nightmares; poor peer relationships; few social skills; extremely isolated; repeated "runaways."

Parents: Extremely overprotective; overly interested in child's social and sexual life; sees child as highly sexualized.

Signature: _____ Date: _____