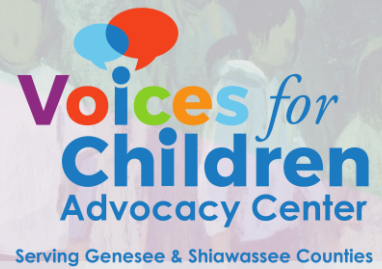


Children Need *All* Adults to Report Abuse During the COVID-19 Crisis



A resource for all adults describing signs of child abuse and where to report. Reporting child abuse and neglect is everyone's responsibility.

Kids are counting on All Adults to Protect Them

This means YOU! This resource is for any adult who talks to or sees a child. It talks about signs of abuse and neglect and where to report if you suspect something is wrong.

In times of crisis and economic instability, child abuse and neglect rates increase. However, reports of child abuse and neglect in Michigan have declined.

Children are not going to school, activities, places of worship, after school programs or other public places where adults look out for their safety and well-being or where they can disclose.

Trust Your Gut

If something does not look safe, sound safe, or feel safe; **Report.**

Making a Report Call is Just Checking in on the Wellbeing of a Child

When you make a report, you are checking on the wellbeing of the child. **You remain anonymous and you do not need proof.**

You May be the Only Person to Act

If you reasonably suspect a child is unsafe - **report.** Anonymous reports are accepted from anyone. Anyone making a report *in good faith* is protected against civil/criminal penalty or adverse employment action. Your identity is held confidential and will not be revealed.

Where to Report

24-hours/ 7 days a week
Child Abuse/ Neglect Hotline
1-855-444-3911

**If a child is in immediate danger,
call 911**

Helpful Tips for Protecting Children

Physical Abuse

- Child appears frightened of the caregiver (flinches or shies away. Watch body language).
- Child has burns, bites, broken bones, bruising, black eyes or complaints of pain.
- Caregiver offers no explanation of a child's injury, the parent "blames" the child's behavior or personality for the injury. Ask yourself "Does the story match what I asked?"

Sexual Abuse

- Child attaches very quickly to strangers or new adults in their environment.
- Demonstrates unusual sexual knowledge or behavior for their age.
- Difficulty walking or sitting.
- Witnessing an adult inappropriately touching a child, watching pornography with a child or saying sexual things to a child.

Emotional Abuse

- Child shows extremes in behavior: overly aggressive or compliant.
- Appears emotionally unattached to caregiver and others.
- Caregiver constantly blames, belittles, or berates the child and refuses to help the child when needed.

Neglect

- Child begs for, or steals, food, has severe poor hygiene or states no one at home provides care. (Have they lost weight?)
- Witnessing a child using alcohol or other drugs.
- Highly stressful family situations and /or adults in home abusing alcohol or other drugs.
- Unlocked weapons or guns in the home.

Open-ended Questions to Ask

- How have you been feeling? What do you need?
- What did you have for (last mealtime)?
- What is the best thing that has happened this week?
- Has anything happened this week that you didn't like?
- Is there anything else you want to tell me/I should know?

[Free child abuse or neglect reporting trainings at MDHHS.](#) For more information visit [Voices for Children's website.](#)

[Adapted from Kids First Missouri & Prevent Child Abuse Missouri's Document Resource](#)