



HANDLE WITH CARE FLORIDA
PROTECT • HEAL • THRIVE

EVERYONE in our Community Can Help Protect Children

With children out of school, **WE ALL** need to step up and keep watch.
If you have any concerns, **REPORT IT! OUR CHILDREN NEED US!**



Signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect:

- Bruising, bites, burns, broken bones, or black eyes
- Consistently dirty or severe body odor
- Apparent lack of supervision considering the age of the child
- Lack of care for serious medical needs or wound care
- Reluctant to be around a particular person
- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Demonstrates unusual sexual knowledge or behavior



Sometimes a parent's demeanor or behavior sends red flags about child abuse:

- Shows little concern for the child
- Unable to recognize physical or emotional distress in the child
- Blames the child for all their problems
- Consistently belittles or berates the child
- Excessive corporal punishment
- Severely limits the child's contact with others
- Offers conflicting or unconvincing explanations for a child's injuries



Risk factors for families:

- History of being abused or neglected
- Physical or mental illness
- Family crisis or stress, including parenting without support, domestic violence
- Child with developmental or physical disabilities
- Financial stress, unemployment or poverty
- Unusual social or extended family isolation
- Poor understanding of child development and parenting skills
- Alcohol, drugs or other substance abuse



Helpful information when reporting:

- County
- First and/or last name of victim or caretaker
- Approximate age of child and caretakers
- Any information to assist in locating the family
- Description of concerns and/or injuries
- Anyone else who might know about the situation

Ask yourself: Does the injury match the explanation and correspond with the child's age and development?



If you suspect abuse, report . . . even if you don't have all the details, call:

1-800-96ABUSE or 1-800-962-2873

for more information about Handle with Care go to HandleWithCareFL.org