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Early Childhood Teaching: from being asked to increasing engagement

CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT:

Understanding Mandated Reporting and Strategies to Support Abused Children

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Our presenters



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Assisting today's presenters

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Today's Objectives

- Obtain information on types of child abuse and some behavioral indicators prevalent during the child protection process.
- Understand how mandated reporting can prevent imminent risk of serious harm to a young child.
- Gain Strategies to meet the needs of abused children and support their families.

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Understanding Child Abuse & Neglect

The RESEARCH

The complex interplay of factors that influences the origins and consequences of child maltreatment

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3 Decades of Research

Remarkable progress has been achieved.

- Theoretical assumptions have been revised and expanded characteristics of individuals, families, neighborhoods, social and cultural values that affect child maltreatment
- The importance of the developmental cycle of the child studying the consequences of child maltreatment and designing interventions and prevention programs
- The relationship between experiences with child abuse and neglect and a broad range of health and behavioral disorders

Despite this progress, we still lack a solid base of research information that can guide and enhance society's efforts to intervene and prevent child abuse and neglect

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Types of CHILD ABUSE

- Physical Abuse
- Physical Neglect
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Maltreatment

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Types of CHILD ABUSE

DEFINED

PHYSICAL ABUSE Non-accidental physical injury	SEXUAL ABUSE Sexual assault or exploitation of minors Chronic molestation or single incident Exploitation related to pornography
PHYSICAL NEGLECT Severe Malnutrition Health and Safety of child put at risk	EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT Verbal assaults, belittling Constant family discord

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Physical INDICATORS

PHYSICAL ABUSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burns (cigarette, rope, scalding water) Fractures, lacerations, bruises that cannot be explained Facial injuries (black eyes, broken jaw) Pattern of bruising (different stages of discoloration) 	NEGLECT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to thrive Malnutrition Inappropriate dress for weather Dirty, unkempt Unattended medical conditions 	SEXUAL ABUSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruising around genital area Swelling or discharge from vagina or penis Visible lesions around mouth or genitals Painful urination, defecation
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Behavioral INDICATORS

PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Hostile or aggressive behavior towards others
- Extreme fear or withdrawn behavior
- Self destructive behavior / Verbally abusive

NEGLECT

- Clingy or indiscriminate attachment
- Isolates self
- Seems depressed or passive

SEXUAL ABUSE

- Sexualized behavior (knowledge of explicit sexual behavior)
- Self destructive
- Eating disorders
- Promiscuous behavior

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Lacks self-esteem; puts self down constantly

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Child Maltreatment*

Maltreatment by TYPE** **696,785 Substantiated Cases of Maltreatment**

Physical Abuse	123,065	(18.3%)
Neglect	504,545	(74.9%)
Medical Neglect	15,160	(7.1%)
Sexual Abuse	60,956	(8.6%)
Psychological Maltreatment	38,635	(5.7%)
Other	47,628	(7.1%)

* Data from Child Maltreatment ©2017 Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families
 **Total % exceeds 100% due to reports that include multiple types of abuse

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Child Abuse

Victims by AGE*

Age	Rate per 1,000 children
<1	25.3
1	11.7
2	11.0
3	10.1
4	10.0
5	9.8
6	9.5
7	9.2
8	8.9
9	8.5
10	7.6
11	6.9
12	6.7
13	6.6
14	6.6
15	6.5
16	5.8
17	1.6

* Data from Child Maltreatment ©2017 Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families

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Child Maltreatment

Fatalities by AGE*

1,368 Maltreatment Fatalities

< 1 Year Old	679	(49.6%)
1 Year Old	179	(13.1%)
2 Years Old	124	(9.1%)
3 Years Old	80	(5.8%)
4 Years Old	60	(4.4%)
5 Years Old	36	(2.6%)
6-17 Years Old	206	(15.2%)
18-21 Years Old	4	(.2%)

* Data from Child Maltreatment ©2017 Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families

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Mandated REPORTERS

VIDEO

Who are the Mandated Reporters?

- ▶ Child care custodians/early childhood educators
- ▶ Health practitioners
- ▶ Employees of a child protective agency
- ▶ Commercial film and photographic print processors

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Mandated REPORTERS cont'd.

Early Childhood Educators

- ▶ Employee of a Licensed early childhood program
- ▶ Group home personnel
- ▶ Instructional Assistant
- ▶ Licensing Worker
- ▶ Teacher
- ▶ Principal

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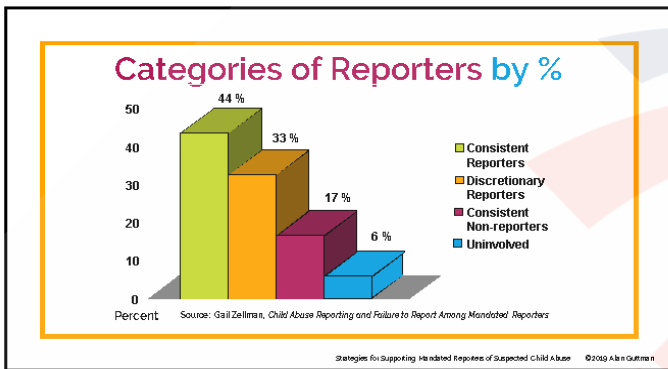
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Why are early childhood educators mandated reporters?

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- ### Categories of mandated reporters?
- **CONSISTENT REPORTERS**, who always reported
 - **DISCRETIONARY REPORTERS**, who sometimes reported and sometimes did not
 - **CONSISTENT NONREPORTERS**, who never reported
 - **UNINVOLVED**, who have never encountered suspected child abuse

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Who REPORTED?*

Source	Count	Percentage
Educational Personnel	792,619	(30%)
Early Childhood Educators	24,598	(1%)
Social Service Personnel	452,584	(17%)
Foster Care Providers	14,661	(1%)
Medical Personnel	346,335	(13%)
Mental Health Personnel	217,446	(8%)
Legal/Law Enforcement	751,320	(29%)
Victims	14,250	(1%)

* Data from Child Maltreatment, ©2013 Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families

48% (Educational Personnel + Early Childhood Educators)

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Role of PARENTS*

SUSPECTED MALTREATMENT REPORTS BY SOURCE

Parents: 6.7%

VICTIMS BY RELATIONSHIP TO THEIR PERPETRATORS

Parents: 91.4%

* Data from Child Maltreatment, ©2013 Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families

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- ### Reasons FOR Reporting
- Legal and Professional Responsibilities
 - Immediate Intervention
 - Provide Assistance

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Reasons FOR Reporting

LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal requirement Fear of lawsuit Workplace policy 	PROVIDE ASSISTANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get help for child / family Ensure continued treatment Alert family to seriousness 	SEXUAL ABUSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop maltreatment Involve Child Protective Services expertise Police to quickly protect child
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Child Abuse Reporting Laws: VARIATIONS

SPECIFIC MANDATED REPORTERS
(e.g. teachers, early childhood educators):

- Individual responsibility to report to authorities
- Individual responsibility to report to authorities & internally
- Responsibility to report to your supervisor or director
- May or may not be required to provide your personal information

All residents of states are considered mandated reporters with individual reporting responsibility

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Why FAIL to Report? Why Mandated Reporters FAIL to Report Suspected Child Abuse

- Personal concerns
- Concerns about the effects of a report
- Victim characteristics
- Case characteristics
- Evidence issues
- System concerns

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Why FAIL to Report? Why Mandated Reporters FAIL to Report Suspected Child Abuse

PERSONAL CONCERNS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time consuming Not sure how to do it Fear of lawsuit for reporting Discomfort with family Unwilling to breach Fear of losing job Fear of being disciplined Bad personal experience with reporting Fear of retribution 	CONCERNS ABOUT EFFECTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased risk Family disruption Treatment disruption Fear of hurting someone they have connection with (child, family, parents)
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Why Mandated Reporters FAIL to Report

Why FAIL to Report?



VICTIM CHARACTERISTICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult 	EVIDENCE ISSUES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I can't 'see' it because I can't think about it" Not serious enough Initial impression misleading Lack of evidence
CASE CHARACTERISTICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already reported Situation resolved 	SYSTEM CONCERNS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help child better myself Authorities do nothing CPS overreacts "...but I turned out okay" Insensitive Police response "Bad things happened to me in the system"

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Strategies for Supporting Mandated Reporters of Suspected Child Abuse

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Following a Report

Prevent CONFRONTATION

Preventing Parenting Confrontations with Staff Following a Report

“We don’t share that information.”

INCLUDE IN:

- Parent handbooks and trainings
- Personnel policies & procedures
- Staff in-service trainings

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Consider a Two-Part Policy

Mandated by LAW

PART 1: PROCEDURES MANDATED BY LAW

- Fulfills legal requirements
- Maintains external confidentiality
- Provides for internal confidentiality (when necessary)

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Consider a Two-Part Policy

Agency PROCEDURES

PART 2: AGENCY PROCEDURES

- Create a SCAN (suspicion of child abuse & neglect) team for internal reporting
- Ensures staff support for reporter and all staff
- Maintains external confidentiality
- Prepares agency to support child and family

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Consider Safety Strategies

Physical SAFETY

PHYSICAL SAFETY OF STAFF AND FAMILIES:

- Onsite security
 - Private unarmed security
 - Private armed security / off-duty Police
- Temporary restraining order if necessary

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Consider Safety Strategies

COMMUNICATION

PHYSICAL SAFETY OF STAFF AND FAMILIES:

- Maintain confidentiality procedures
- Note any specific threats
- Ensure staff and families that safety measures have been taken

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Guided Role Play

Typical CONCERNS

From Caregivers of Young Children: Preventing and Responding to Child Maltreatment

- I usually ask parents about their child's allegations before deciding to report.
- I have no right to intervene in a family's affairs.
- Their cultural practices are different from mine. I have no right to impose my child-rearing beliefs on them.

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Guided Role Play

Typical CONCERNS From Caregivers of Young Children: Preventing and Responding to Child Maltreatment

I've worked with this parent and family for 5 years. I just can't believe he would sexually abuse the children. There must be some other explanation.

I just started at the center and don't want to be considered a troublemaker...but Mrs. Littleton is extremely rough with the children, and yesterday she left finger marks on both of Carmen's arms.

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Guided Role Play

Typical CONCERNS From Caregivers of Young Children: Preventing and Responding to Child Maltreatment

The last time I reported, nothing happened. The child is still with his family, and the father is still abusing him. The CPS caseworker never even got in touch with me...This time, I'm not going to bother reporting.

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Guided Role Play

Typical CONCERNS From Caregivers of Young Children: Preventing and Responding to Child Maltreatment

I might be sued by the parents for making a false report.

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Anecdotal CASES

My agency's Policies & Procedures require me to report all suspected abuse to the nurse. I am told that the nurse will handle all reports.

My director is good friends with the mother of a child who has disclosed to me. I don't want to lose my job.

Strategies for Supporting Mandated Reporters of Suspected Child Abuse ©2009 Alan Guttmann


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Anecdotal CASES

Even though I see new suspicious bruises, I don't need to report. We already reported on this child last week.

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After a Report...Where do we go from here?

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VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers that Work with Abused Children:

- Guardian ad Litem (GAL)
- Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (CASA)

North Carolina
GUARDIAN AD LITEM
A COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE

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Reunification

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- Return to parents
- Guardianship
- Adoption



Permanency


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- Kinship Care
- Foster Care
- Group Homes
- Remain with Parents



Children in the System

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The Rules are all Different

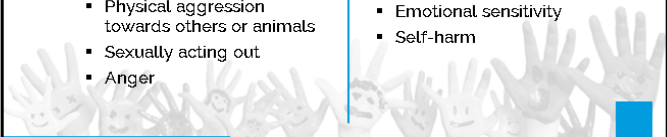
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Common BEHAVIORS

- Withdrawn or depressed mood
- Lack of understanding regarding consequence
- Physical aggression towards others or animals
- Sexually acting out
- Anger

Common Behaviors of Abused Children

- Lack of impulse control
- Difficulty connecting with others
- Property destruction
- Emotional sensitivity
- Self-harm



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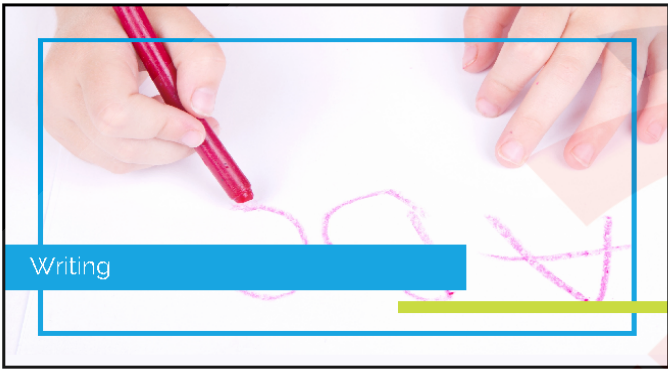
Strategies for working with Children who have been abused

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Time Alone

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Writing

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Stress Balls and Fidgeters

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Deep Breathing

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Open the Other Senses Game

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Knitting / Crocheting

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Arts

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Yoga/ Stretching

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Exercise / Sports

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Nature Sounds

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Patience and Understanding

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Get to Know the Child

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Develop Trust

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Relationship

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Continuity of Care

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Building Strong FAMILIES

Early Childhood Educators have a role in preventing child maltreatment and in helping to build strong families by:

- Developing parental resilience to stress
- Increasing social connections among parents through activities

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Building Strong FAMILIES

Early Childhood Educators have a role in preventing child maltreatment and in helping to build strong families by:

- Sharing knowledge about parenting and child development
- Offering parents concrete support in times of need
- Building the social and emotional competence of the children

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Resources

1. Child Welfare Information Gateway - <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/childcare/>
2. The National Academies Press - <https://www.nap.edu/read/2117/chapter/3#39>
3. North Carolina Guardian ad Litem - <https://volunteerforal.org/>
4. Understanding Difficult Behavior: For Foster and Adoptive Parents, April 15, 2010 - <https://www.goodtherapy.org/>
5. 18 Coping Skills & Activities - <https://www.thehelpfulcounselor.com/>
6. Shadows to Light, California Department of Justice ©1995. - View the Full Video on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/-zP6YSuGZA>

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NEXT webinar


EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING: From Easing Stress To Increasing Engagement

Responding to Childhood Trauma: Building Resiliency in Our Children

Wednesday, October 23, 2019 @ 1:30 PM ET

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