



Remember to ENGAGE

Your Students and Their Caregivers

- Schedule time to speak to each child and their caregivers privately and on a regular basis. Provide them with encouraging messages.
- Ask specific questions to identify children's well being. Examples: "Can you give me one word that describes how you feel today?" "How are things going with virtual school?" "What is going well and what is not?" "Do you need any supports or assistance during this time?"
- Make an extra effort with those children who have a history of abuse and neglect, live in a high stress environment or require additional assistance due to disabilities or delays.

Possible Indicators of Physical Abuse

- Unexplained fractures or injuries
- Previous injuries in various healing stages
- Patterned injuries consistent with objects of abuse (cigarettes, belt, hands)
- Burns on extremities, buttocks or genitals
- Frightened of or shrink at approach of adult caregiver
- Emotional turmoil (anxiety, depressed, suicidal); developmental delays
- Self-isolation or undue aggression
- Fear of going home; many school absences
- Abuses animals or pets



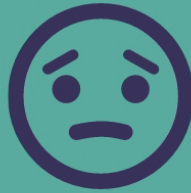
Possible Indicators of Neglect

- Poor growth or weight gain or being overweight
- Poor hygiene
- Lack of clothing or supplies to meet physical needs
- Taking food or money without permission
- Hiding food for later
- Poor record of school attendance
- Lack of appropriate attention for medical, dental or psychological problems or lack of necessary follow-up care



Possible Indicators of Emotional Abuse

- Delayed or inappropriate emotional development
- Loss of self-confidence or self-esteem
- Social withdrawal or a loss of interest or enthusiasm
- Depression
- Avoidance of certain situations, such as refusing to go to school or ride the bus
- Desperately seeks affection
- A decrease in school performance or loss of interest in school
- Loss of previously acquired developmental skills



Possible Indicators of Sexual Abuse

- Soreness or bruising, pain or itching in genital or anal areas
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Nightmares or bedwetting
- Unexplained loss of appetite
- Becoming isolated or withdrawn
- Excessive masturbation or sexual play
- Abuses children, animals or pets
- Attaches very quickly to strangers or new adults in their environment
- Obsession with pornography or viewing sexually explicit photos
- Repeated runaway or suicide attempts
- Self-destructive behavior/self-injury/cutting, risky or delinquent behavior

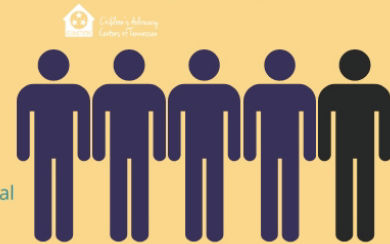


Any minor who performs a commercial sex act is also defined, by Tennessee law, as a victim of sex trafficking, regardless of the use of force, fraud, or coercion. (T.C.A. § 39-13-309)

About 60% of children who are sexually abused are abused by the people the family trusts.



1 in 5 youth, ages 10 to 17, receive sexual solicitation or are approached online.



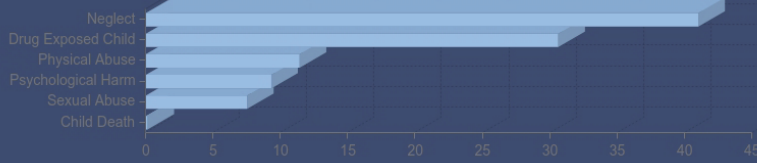
Keeping Children & Families Safe During COVID & Social Distancing

"It is clear now more than ever that no one agency, system, or institution can tackle the complexities of child abuse and neglect in isolation. **Tennessee Kids Need Us** to protect them."

128,611

calls were received by the TN Child Abuse Hotline in 2019

Allegation Type in 2019



In May 2019,

1860

vs.

In May 2020,

130

referrals came from school personnel

referrals came from school personnel

School staff is critical in helping identifying children who are being abused and/or neglected. If something doesn't look safe, report it. You may be the only person to act.



Things to look out for while video conferencing with children

OBSERVE THE CHILD

- Are there any signs of concerning marks or injuries?
- Are there any signs of illness or malnutrition?
- Pay attention to the child's physical demeanor. Does the child appear nervous or timid during the video sessions? Are they making eye contact? How are they behaving? Does the child appear afraid?
- Does the child appear well rested?
- Are there any hygiene concerns for the child?
- How is the child dressed?

LISTEN TO THEIR BACKGROUND

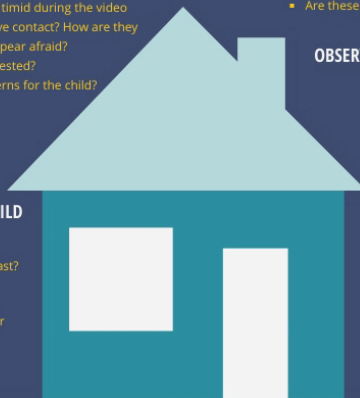
- What do you hear?
- Who do you hear and what are they saying?
- Do you hear any arguing or fighting?
- Are these noises distracting to the child?

OBSERVE THEIR BACKGROUND

- Who and what do you see?
- Pay attention to other's actions and behaviors. Do the others appear nervous or acting strangely when sessions are occurring?
- What does the child's home environment look like?
- Do you see anything dangerous or unhealthy for the child in the background?
- Are there any signs of substance usage occurring in the home?
- Is there a suitable caregiver in the home during these video sessions?

LISTEN TO THE CHILD

- What are they saying?
- Are they talking slow or fast?
- Is their voice crackling?
- Are they stuttering?
- Do they sound nervous or scared?

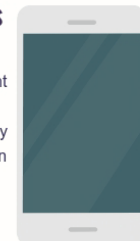


Nationally, neglect is the most common form of abuse. Three-out-of-five (nearly 61%) of victims were neglected only, more than 10% were physically abused only, and 7% were sexually abused only. Yet the statistics indicate a more complex problem where children experience multiple forms of abuse. In 2018, more than 15% of kids were poly-victimized (suffered two or more forms of abuse)



Legal Responsibilities and Referent Rights

- All Tennessee adults are mandated reporters.
- It is against the law for anyone to impede or prevent a report from being made.
- Referents are protected against civil/criminal penalty or adverse employment action for reports made in good faith.



To report suspected abuse or neglect of a child in Tennessee call the designated school line at

855-209-4226

or make a report online at apps.tn.gov/carat/