OUR KIDS NEED ESSENTIAL WORKERS & ALL ADULTS TO REPORT ABUSE DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

Reporting child abuse and neglect is everyone’s responsibility.

#ConnectSupportReport

KIDS ARE COUNTING ON ALL ADULTS TO PROTECT THEM

This means YOU! This resource is for essential workers and any adult keeping our communities running. It outlines potential signs of abuse and neglect and where to report.

During the COVID-19 emergency and stay-at-home orders, far fewer eyes and ears are available to help ensure Santa Clara County children remain safe. Connect, by reaching out to parents to provide support and if you have concerns for a child’s safety or well being, report.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

Trust your instinct if you are seeing, hearing or sensing something that indicates a child isn’t safe - report or call 911.

TO REPORT EFFECTIVELY

Please obtain as much detail as possible regarding any concerns, such as identifying information, location of the family, WHEN/WHERE an incident occurred, HOW something made the child feel, or WHAT injuries look like (size, shape, and location). It is okay to ask open ended follow up questions to clarify information.

MAKING A REPORT IS ASKING FOR HELP & SERVICES

When you report, you are asking for a professional to help a child and their family. Making a report to Child Protective Services does not impact a child’s and their family’s immigration status.

YOU MAY BE THE ONLY PERSON TO ACT

ANY person can report abuse/neglect. It is NOT necessary for a reporter to first verify that the abuse or neglect has occurred. Anyone making a report in good faith is protected against civil/criminal penalty or adverse employment action.

WHERE TO REPORT

24-hour/7 days a week
Child Abuse & Neglect Center
(833) SCC- KIDS (722-5437)
If child is in immediate danger, call 911

POTENTIAL SIGNS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Physical Abuse

- Child has bruising, welts, burns, bite marks, broken bones or other injuries that are not explained, appear to be inflicted, or are suspicious.
- Child may report having pain caused by parental behavior, though have no obvious signs of injury.
- 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 the injury?”

Sexual Abuse

- Child may describe being sexually touched by a parent, caregiver, or other person in the home.
- Child may demonstrate unusual sexual knowledge or behavior for their age.
- Witnessing an adult inappropriately touching a child, watching pornography with a child or saying sexual things to a child.

Emotional Abuse

- Child has been directly present in a room where domestic violence incidents have occurred.
- Caregiver is known or heard to repeatedly blame, belittle, or berate the child.
- Child is aware of and exposed to domestic violence incidents between caregivers.

Neglect

- Child is witnessing illegal substance use by caregivers, and or has access to unsafe weapons or items in the home.
- Child is not being supervised adequately for their age and developmental ability.
- Child’s primary needs for food, education, medical, dental, or mental health care are not being met. For complex circumstances such as poverty, neglect may be more likely but not assumed.

Additional Support for Parents & Caregivers

United Way Bay Area at 2-1-1
Connecting Bay Area residence with healthy & human services
Bay Area T.A.L.K Line at (415) 441-5437
Providing 24-hour parental support for parents & caregivers

Adapted from Parent Child Abuse Missouri & Missouri KidsFirst