



# Educate Yourself To Help Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect

Child maltreatment comes in different forms. Educate yourself so you can be part of the solution to stop child abuse and neglect in Lorain County.

## *Consider the possibility of physical abuse when the child:*

- Has unexplained burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, or black eyes;
- Has fading bruises or other marks noticeable after an absence from school;
- Seems frightened and protests or cries when it is time to go home;
- Shrinks at the approach of adults; or
- Reports injury by a parent or another adult caregiver.

## *Consider the possibility of neglect when the child:*

- Is frequently absent from school;
- Begs or steals food or money from classmates;
- Lacks needed medical or dental care, immunizations, or glasses;
- Is consistently dirty and has severe body odor;
- Lacks sufficient clothing for the weather;
- Abuses alcohol or other drugs;
- States there is no one at home to provide care; or
- Behaves irrationally or in a bizarre manner.

## *Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when the child:*

- Has difficulty walking or sitting;
- Suddenly refuses to change for gym or to participate in physical activities;
- Demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior;
- Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease, particularly if under age fourteen;
- Runs away; or
- Reports sexual abuse by a parent or another adult caregiver

## *Consider the possibility of emotional maltreatment when the child:*

- Shows extremes in behavior, such as overly compliant or demanding behavior, extreme passivity or aggression;
- Is either inappropriately adult-like (parenting other children, for example) or inappropriately infantile (frequently rocking or head-banging, for example);
- Is delayed in physical or emotional development;
- Has attempted suicide; or
- Reports a lack of attachment to the parent.

**Child Abuse is defined as:** at a minimum, any act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, non-accidental physical injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or presents an imminent risk of serious harm to a child's welfare.

**Child Neglect is defined as:** at a minimum, any act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in a child who lacks proper care or supervision, proper or necessary subsistence, education, medical or surgical care or treatment, or other care necessary for the child's health, morals, or well-being.

**Child Sexual Abuse is defined as:** at minimum, any act performed by an adult with a child that includes sexual conduct or sexual contact of a child or endangers the child through participation in prostitution or pornography.

**Child Emotional Abuse is defined as:** at minimum, any act performed by a parent or caretaker that injures the behavioral, cognitive, emotional, or mental stability of a child.

This flyer was developed by Lorain County Children & Families Council, a department of the Lorain County Commissioners, using funding provided by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund.

**If you suspect a child is being maltreated, please call 1-800-4ACHILD or 911 if it is an emergency.**