

Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect



(CAAN)

Icons

Several icons are used throughout this course as a visual reference.



This icon represents a new topic in the text. This is a visual cue for you to answer any questions about the previous section before moving along to the next one.



This icon is used to identify an exercise that involves in-class practices and feedback.



This icon is used to identify a specially designed activity that requires active class participation.



This icon is used to identify a section that is accompanied by a video.

Icons



This icon is used to identify a key point in the material.



This icon is used to identify an online resource. You will need a computer with an internet connection to view these resources.



This icon is used to identify an exercise that involves a role-playing scenario.



This icon is used to identify an activity that requires you to reflect on the information taught in the course by asking you a question. The answers to these questions will require you to think about your role as a child care professional and may influence your actions.

Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Module 1: Identifying Child Abuse and Neglect

Module Goal and Learning Objectives

Goal

Participants will be able to identify the signs, symptoms, and indicators of child abuse and neglect.

Learning Objectives

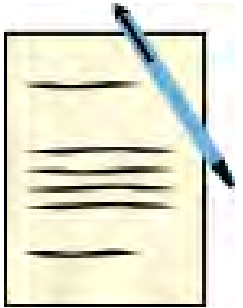
After successfully completing this module, you will be able to:

- Identify and define terms associated with child abuse and neglect
- Identify common physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and neglect
- Explain causes and risk factors of child abuse and neglect
- Identify effects of child abuse and neglect

Your Role in Identifying Child Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse and neglect can occur in families of any socioeconomic status. It can also occur out of the home, including in child care programs. It is more prevalent than you may think, and you may be the only person in a position to intervene. You not only have a moral obligation to intervene, but you have a legal obligation to report it.

For more information about child abuse and neglect, you can call the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence at 1-800-500-1119 or the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence at 1-888-956-7273 to be connected to a local hotline.



Activity: Childhelp USA's® Pre-Quiz

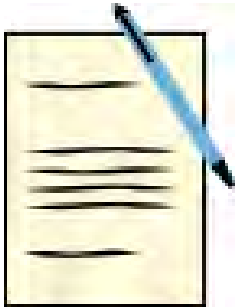
1. Three children die as a result of child abuse in the home in the United States each
a) Year **b) Day** c) Week d) Month

2. How many people report child abuse when faced with an actual situation?
a) 3/4 b) 1/2 **c) 1/3**



Activity: Childhelp USA's® Pre-Quiz

3. What is the single, leading cause of death for children ages four and younger?
- a) Drowning
 - b) Motor vehicle accidents
 - c) Child abuse and neglect
 - d) Choking on food
 - e) Residential fires
 - f) Suffocation
 - g) Falls



Activity: Childhelp USA's® Pre-Quiz

4) On average, child abuse is reported somewhere in the United States every:

a) 10 seconds

b) 20 minutes

c) Hour

5) Strangers pose the greatest risk of sexual abuse to children.

a) True

b) False

6) Child molesters get their sexual gratification only from children.

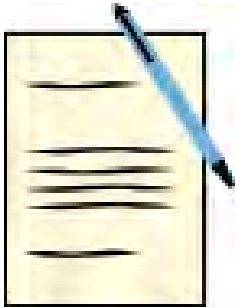
a) True

b) False



Activity: Childhelp USA's® Pre-Quiz

7. The average age that child molesters first attack a child is when the molesters are
- a) In their early 20s
 - b) Middle-aged
 - c) In their teens



Activity: Childhelp USA's® Pre-Quiz

8. Which of the following actions can help stop child abuse and neglect?

a) Helping a stressed-out parent by baby-sitting, making a meal for their family, or lending an understanding ear.

b) Learning the signs and symptoms of child abuse so you can recognize them when you see the “red flags.”

c) Reporting known or suspected child abuse to the police or local child protective services agency.

d) All of the above.



Learning Definitions

1. Child
2. Child Abuse
3. Physical Abuse
4. Sexual Abuse
5. Verbal Abuse
6. Institutional Abuse or Neglect
7. Neglect
8. Emotional Neglect
9. Harm
10. Inadequate Supervision
11. Lack of Adequate Shelter
12. Lack of Adequate Clothing/Good Hygiene
13. Lack of Adequate Nutrition
14. Lack of Dental/Medical Care
15. Lack of Love and Attention (Failure to Thrive)
16. Lack of Providing Access to Education
17. Florida Abuse Hotline
18. Immunity

Types of Child Abuse

Example of physical abuse

For the 3rd time this week, Kevin got mud all over his clothes while he was playing outside. This made Kevin's mother, Shelby, mad. She thought that putting him in hot bath water would punish him for the dirty clothes. He cried about taking a bath and cried even more when he was put in the bathtub with scalding hot water. Shelby kept her hand on Kevin's shoulder. Every time he tried to get out of the water, Shelby would push him down. Shelby didn't notice the scald marks until after the bath was over.

Types of Child Abuse

Another type of child abuse is sexual

Casey has been at your facility for 3 years. He has been known to lie on several occasions. He comes from a family that has a wonderful reputation in the community. One day, Casey is crying. When you ask him what is wrong, he tells you that his dad made him take his clothes off and then he took a lot of pictures of him. Casey said Dad told him not to tell anyone about the pictures. He said Dad told him this was their special secret.

Types of Child Abuse

A third type of abuse is emotional

Latoya is quiet and shy child. Lately, she has been talking even less. One day, she was in the housekeeping area when a cup was accidentally broken by one of the children. Latoya started crying. When you asked what was wrong, she told you it reminded her of when she broke her dad's favorite cup one time. She said now her dad tells her every morning, when she is eating breakfast, that he doesn't want her around anymore because she is bad and is too much trouble. When you ask if Dad hurts her, she says no.

Key Point



There are three types of child abuse: physical, sexual, and emotional.



Shaken Baby Syndrome

What can shaking a baby or young child cause?

- permanent brain damage, paralysis, blindness, seizures, developmental delays, broken bones, death

What can you do to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome?

- make sure those who care for young children know the dangers of shaking a baby; be careful during play or physical activity

How can you cope with a crying baby or child?

- take deep, slow breaths; take a break; ask for help; count to 10

Child Neglect

Example of neglect

Dad works a 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. job. Mom works from 11:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. as a nursing assistant. This schedule allows one parent to always be home to care for the children so they do not have to pay for child care. One day, Dad has to work a double shift. He will not be home until midnight. It is 10:00 p.m. and close to time for Mom to leave. She feels they can't afford to pay someone to watch her 2- and 6-year-old children, even for a short time. She decides that the children can stay alone since they are asleep and Dad will be home in a couple of hours.

Child Neglect

Failure to provide support, acceptance, attention, warmth, supervision and normal living experience for a child is considered neglect.

Withholding these things can cause a child to not function normally in performance and behavior. Sometimes withholding things can also be child abuse.

Failure to Thrive can be an outcome of emotional abuse or emotional neglect. A lack of holding, hugging, rocking, singing, touching, and loving that occurs during infancy and early childhood can cause an infant's or child's weight to drop to below the fifth percentile.

Key Point



Failure to provide support, acceptance, attention, warmth, supervision, and normal living experiences for a child is considered neglect.

Indicators of Abuse and Neglect

Physical Abuse Indicators

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unexplained bruises or welts • Unexplained burns • Unexplained broken bones • Unexplained lacerations or abrasions • Domestic violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wary of adult contact • Apprehensive when other children cry • Behavioral extremes: aggressive or withdrawn • Frightened of parents • Afraid to go home • Reports injury by parents • Shows anxiety about normal activities (napping, eating, etc.) • Easily startled • Wearing long sleeves/pants in warm weather • Banging, hitting, or threatening play

Emotional Abuse or Neglect Indicators

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech and language disorders • Lags in physical development • Failure to thrive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habit disorders (sucking, biting, rocking, etc.) • Conduct disorders (antisocial, destructive) • Neurotic traits (sleep disorders, inhibition of play) • Psychoneurotic reactions (hysteria, obsession, compulsion, phobias) • Behavior extremes (compliant/passive, aggressive/demanding) • Overly-adaptive behavior (inappropriate adult, inappropriate infant) • Developmental lags (mental, emotional) • Self-destructive behavior or attempted suicide

Physical Neglect Indicators

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent hunger, poor hygiene, over/under dressed for the climate • Consistent lack of supervision, especially in dangerous activities over long periods of time • Unattended physical problems or medical needs (anemia, urinary infections, diarrhea, malnutrition) • Abandonment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begs for, steals food • Extended stays at school (early arrival, late departure) • Constant fatigue, listlessness, or falling asleep in class • Alcohol or drug abuse • Delinquency (thefts) • States there is no caregiver

Sexual Abuse Indicators

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty in walking/sitting • Torn, shredded, stained, or bloody underclothing • Pain or itching in genital area • Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia, vaginal or anal areas, or mouth or throat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal, fantasy, or infantile behavior • Bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual behavior, or knowledge • Poor peer relationships • Delinquency or running away • Reports sexual assault by caregiver

Key Point



There are observable physical and behavioral indicators associated with abuse and neglect.

Interaction with Child and Family

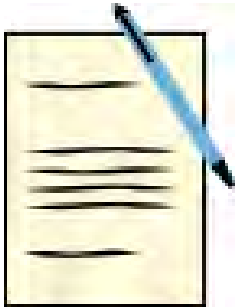
What are some examples of things that might be observed or shared with you that could help you recognize the signs of abuse or neglect?

- Parent blames or belittles the child
- Parent talks about the child as bad or evil
- Parent smells of alcohol/drugs or seems to be under the influence
- Parent fails to keep appointments
- Parent seems unconcerned with the child
- Parent mentions financial problems
- Parent talks about divorce, death, or illness
- Parent admits to alcohol or substance abuse
- Parent talks about domestic violence or shows signs of it

Key Point



Interaction with children and families provides information that may further help the caregiver in recognizing possible cases of abuse and/or neglect.



Applying Your Knowledge

Scenario 1:

The correct answer is “Suspect Abuse and Neglect”

The key indicators are:

- There may be inadequate supervision. (Neglect)
- There are unexplained bruises, welts, and burns. (Abuse)
- The child displays withdrawn behavior. (Abuse)



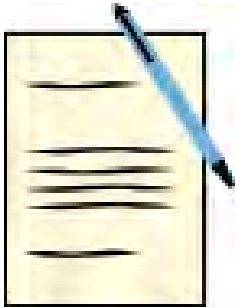
Applying Your Knowledge

Scenario 2:

The correct answer is “Suspect Abuse and Neglect”

The key indicators are:

- The child has an unexplained injury. (Abuse)
- The child may have an unattended physical problem or need. (Neglect)
- The child gives an unusual reaction and response to your question. (Abuse or Neglect)



Applying Your Knowledge

Scenario 3:

The correct answer is “Suspect Abuse”

The key indicators are:

- The child displays withdrawn behavior. (Abuse)
- The child is weary of adult contact. (Abuse)
- The child has obvious bruises and welts. (Abuse)
- The child reports injuries by parents. (Abuse)



Applying Your Knowledge

Scenario 4:

The correct answer is “Suspect Neglect”

The key indicators are:

- The child is consistently hungry. (Neglect)
- The child lags in physical development; he is extremely thin. (Neglect)



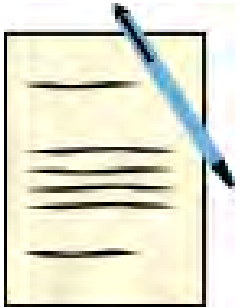
Applying Your Knowledge

Scenario 5:

The correct answer is “Suspect Abuse and Neglect”

The key indicators are:

- The child displays behavioral indicators; she is angry and will not play with her friend. (Abuse or Neglect)
- The child wears long sleeves and pants in warm weather. (Abuse or Neglect)



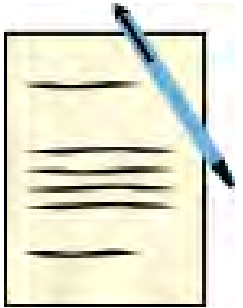
Applying Your Knowledge

Scenario 6:

The correct answer is “Suspect Neglect”

The key indicators are:

- The child has unattended physical problems or medical needs. (Neglect – Lack of Medical Attention)



Applying Your Knowledge

Scenario 7:

The correct answer is “Suspect Abuse and Neglect”

The key indicators are:

- A child has reported being forced to stand in a dark closet. (Abuse or Neglect)
- The children are crying after being yelled at by a caregiver. (Abuse - Institutional)

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is the use of any person under the age of 18 for sexual purposes in exchange for—or for the promise of—money, goods, or services by a non-caregiver.

- Examples of Human Trafficking
- Indicators of Human Trafficking

Key Point



Child care professionals need to be aware of the indicators of human trafficking in order to protect the safety of children.

Risk Factors of Child Abuse and Neglect

- Child Risk Factors
- Parental/Family Risk Factors
- Social/Environmental Risk Factors

Key Point



There are child, family, and environmental factors that place children at risk for abuse and/or neglect.



Misconceptions

1. Myth
2. Fact
3. Myth
4. Fact
5. Myth
6. Myth
7. Fact
8. Fact
9. Myth

Effects of Child Abuse and Neglect

The effects of child abuse and neglect can be serious and permanently affect children's **cognitive**, **physical**, and **emotional** development. Recent scientific studies of the brain reveal that the first years of a child's life are critical to development. A child must receive adequate **stimulation** to ensure that nerve cells in the brain develop fully. Negative experiences, like **trauma** or **abuse**, are extremely detrimental in early years. The effects of abuse on a child can begin before a mother even gives birth.

Effects of Child Abuse and Neglect

The Impact of Trauma, Abuse, and Neglect:

- Extreme anxiety
- Depression
- Inability to form healthy relationships
- Memory loss
- Short attention span
- Easily distracted
- Poor self esteem
- Sleeping or eating disorders

Effects of Child Abuse and Neglect on Child, Family, Caregiver, and Society

Experiences throughout childhood can impair mental abilities that may cause a child to respond with aggression or violence to stressful or frustrating situations. The physical and emotional consequences of child abuse and neglect affect the child, family, caregiver, community, and society.

Key Point



The effects of child abuse and neglect can be serious and permanent to a child's cognitive, physical, and emotional development.

Strengthening Factors to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete supports for parents

Working with Abused and Neglected Children

- Children who have been abused may not **trust** other people. Their experiences have shown them that getting close to people and trusting them causes discomfort and pain.
- These children need a close one-to-one relationship to develop and grow normally. They often **reject** warmth, hugs, and affection at first.
- They may be **delayed** in one or more areas of their development (motor, speech, and behavior).
- Their behavior may be at one of **two** extremes: difficult to manage, destructive, and irritable; or unusually shy and anxious to please.
- Abused and neglected children have very poor **self-images**. Important adults in their lives have had unrealistic expectations for these children, and they often are led to believe that they caused their own abuse.
- **Parents** of abused children may feel that you are a threat. They may be hostile and ungrateful toward you since they feel jealous, in competition, inadequate, or afraid you will learn their secrets and report them.

Key Point



It takes understanding, patience, and skills to work with abused and neglected children.

Trauma-Informed Care

- If a child in care is displaying behavioral or emotional issues and/or is developmentally delayed, emotional or physical trauma could be playing a role in the behavior.
- Indicators of trauma in children ages birth to 5
- Triggers can cause a recurrence of symptoms, feelings, and behaviors.
- Tips for helping children ages birth to 5 after a traumatic event

Module 1 Summary

You have achieved this module's learning objectives if you can:

- Identify and define terms associated with child abuse and neglect
- Identify common physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and neglect
- Explain causes and risk factors of child abuse and neglect
- Identify effects of child abuse and neglect

Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Module 2: Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Module Goal and Learning Objectives

Goal

Participants will understand their role in reporting child abuse and neglect.

Learning Objectives

After successfully completing this module, you will be able to:

- Explain the role of the caregiver in reporting suspected child abuse and neglect
- Follow the requirements of reporting suspected child abuse and neglect according to Florida law
- Identify community resources that provide support for abused and the abuser

The History of Child Abuse Reporting

- The first child abuse case was reported in 1873
- Mary-Allen was 9 years old
- Mrs. Wheeler appealed to the ASPCA that children were members of the animal kingdom and must therefore be protected
- Mary-Allen is considered the very first child abuse case in North America

Who is Mandated to Report Abuse?

Section 39.201, Florida Statutes (F.S.) states **all** Floridians must report any child abuse, abandonment, and/or neglect they **suspect**. Failure to report is a third degree felony in the State of Florida.

Who is Mandated to Report Abuse?

Persons in the following professions must provide their names when filing a report:

- Physician, osteopathic physician, medical examiner, chiropractic physician, nurse, or hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of persons;
- Health or mental health professional other than one listed in subparagraph a;
- Practitioner who relies solely on spiritual means for healing;
- School teacher or other school official or personnel;
- Social worker, day care center worker, or other professional child care, foster care, residential, or institutional worker;
- Law enforcement officer; or
- Judge.

Who is Mandated to Report Abuse?

- All **child care** professionals must provide their **names** when reporting suspicions of child abuse, abandonment, and/or neglect.
- Pursuant to section 39.202, F.S., the names of reporters are held confidential except to specific individuals involved in carrying out the investigation.
- Annually, a statement must be signed by child care professionals acknowledging their understanding of the laws for reporting suspicions of child abuse and neglect.

Who is Mandated to Report Abuse?



Child Abuse & Neglect Reporting Requirements

All child care personnel are mandated by law to report their suspicions of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment to the Florida Abuse Hotline in accordance with s. 39.201 of the Florida Statutes (F.S.).

- * Child care personnel must be alert to the physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and neglect. "Child Abuse or Neglect" is defined in s. 39.201, F.S., as "harm or threatened harm" to a child's health (mental or physical) or welfare by the acts or omissions by a parent, adult household member, other person responsible for the child's welfare, or for purposes of reporting requirements by any person.

Categories include:

- Physical Abuse or Neglect (i.e. unexplained bruises, hunger, lack of supervision...)
- Emotional Abuse or Neglect (i.e. impairment in the ability to function, depression...)
- Sexual Abuse (i.e. withdrawal, excessive crying, physical symptoms...)

- * Reports must be made immediately to the Florida Abuse Hotline Information System by
 - Telephone at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873), or
 - Fax at 1-800-914-0004, or
 - Online at <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report/>.
- * Failure to perform duties of a mandatory reporter pursuant to s. 39.201, F.S. constitutes a violation of the standards in ss. 402.301-319, F.S. and is a felony of the third degree. **Remember**, it is each child care personnel's responsibility to report suspected abuse and/or neglect.
- * All reports are confidential. However, persons who are mandated reporters (child care personnel) are required to give their name when making a report.
- * It is important to give as much identifying and factual information as possible when making a report.
- * Any person, when acting in good faith, is immune from liability in accordance with s. 39.203(1)(a), F.S.
- * For more information about child abuse and neglect, visit the Department's website at www.myflorida.com/childcare and select "Training Requirements." The Department offers a 4-hour *Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect* course for child care providers. This course is an overview of the various types of abuse and neglect, indicators that may be observed, the legal responsibility of mandatory reporters, and the proper procedure for reporting abuse and neglect, as required by ss. 402.305(2) and 402.313(1), F.S. The course is offered both online and instructor-based throughout Florida.

This statement is to verify that on _____, 20____, I, _____
Date Print Name of Employee
Read and understood the information and my mandated reporting requirements.

Signature of Employee (for facility or large family child care home)

Signature of Operator

Key Point



Every adult in Florida is required by law to report ANY suspected abuse or neglect.

Key Point



All child care professionals must provide their names when reporting suspicions of child abuse, abandonment, and/or neglect; everyone else can make an anonymous report, if they prefer.

Key Point



Failure to report suspected abuse or neglect is a third degree felony in the State of Florida.

How to Make a Report

As a Floridian and a child care provider, it is your **duty** and your legal responsibility according to Chapter 39 of the Florida Statutes to report any **suspected** case of child abuse or neglect. You don't have to prove anything. That is the investigator's job.

There are 4 ways to make a report:

- **Online**
- **Telephone** (1-800-96ABUSE)
- **Florida Relay** 7-1-1 or TTY
- **Fax**

How to Make a Report

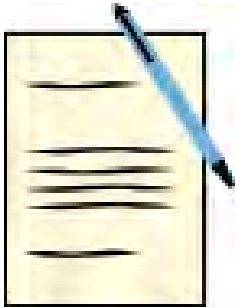
The [Florida Abuse Hotline Fax Transmittal Form](#) is used when you need to fax a report to the hotline. This form can also be used **prior** to making a phone call to review the information needed in a report. However, do not delay contacting the abuse hotline, even if you don't have all of the information on this form.

Be sure to note the section for **Who**, **What**, **When** and **Why** information. This is information you will need to have ready prior to making a report.

Key Point



The four ways abuse and neglect reports can be made to the Florida Abuse Hotline are: online, telephone, Florida Relay/TTY, and fax.



Practice Filling Out the Form

One of the children in your program, John, arrives one morning with a black eye. He is normally cheerful and animated, but today he is acting more quiet than usual. When questioned in the morning, he tells you that he fell off his bike the previous day. Later in the day, you hear him telling a co-worker that he fell down some stairs. John lives with his father, Ben, and an older brother, Steve, who is in high school and plays on the football team. John's father is a mason and works very long hours; he is often in a hurry when he drops John off in the morning and picks him up in the afternoon.

Key Point



Florida law ensures that confidentiality will be maintained for child care workers reporting suspected cases of child abuse and/or neglect.



Sharing with a Partner

1. Find a partner to work with.
2. With your partner, create a list of things to do if you are accused of child abuse or neglect.
3. Share the items on the list that are in place at your work site.
4. Next, discuss the items that you feel can be improved upon at your work site.

How to Handle Accusations of Child Abuse and Neglect

- Don't become **defensive**
- Cooperate fully and **factually** with authorities
- Get statements from colleagues about your **character**
- Know the **laws** related to abuse and neglect
- Talk to a **lawyer** to ensure your rights and those of family members and helpers
- Remember that **protective policies** you have put in place such as your discipline procedures and incident reports will help you
- Work with your **director** and **colleagues** to handle the impact of the accusation on the school, other parents and students

Agencies/Resources

Child Protective Services (CPS) is the designated social service agency (in most communities) to receive and investigate abuse reports and provide rehabilitation services to children and families with problems of child maltreatment. The agency is frequently located within larger public or private social service agencies, or within law enforcement agencies.

The **Department of Children and Families** provides a spectrum of services to preserve and protect the well-being of children and families.

Law Enforcement and State Attorney's Offices investigate cases of child abuse and neglect and have victim advocacy programs to provide information and support through the legal system.

Agencies/Resources

Medical Programs and Community Agencies are places where staff members provide attention to victims of child abuse and neglect and provide counseling for the abused, the abuser, or family members.

Legal Agencies provide divorce, domestic violence injunction, or Guardian ad Litem services.

Communities have the responsibility to establish and maintain required resources and educate families and individuals on child abuse and neglect prevention.

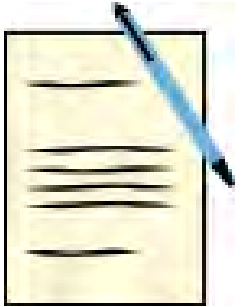
Individuals teach children about child abuse and neglect issues. You must be alert for signs of child abuse or neglect in children you know, give emotional support to victims of child abuse and neglect, and support programs that work to prevent child maltreatment.

Key Point



There are local community resources that provide help for abused children, their families, and abusers.

Do's and Don'ts for Child Caregivers



- *Don't*
- *Don't*
- *Do*
- *Don't*
- *Do*
- *Don't*
- *Do*
- *Don't*
- *Do*
- *Don't*
- *Do*
- *Do*
- *Don't*
- *Do*

Key Point



The Department of Children and Families' child [abuse website](#) is a good source of information.

Child Abuse and Neglect for Caregivers



Listen to the video for who is mandated to report suspected cases, how to report, where to report, when to report, and what happens when a suspected case is not reported.



Reflection

Think about and reflect on things you have heard or discussed in this module. Write down one thing you were unaware of before starting this module and one thing you are thinking about differently or planning to do differently.

Module 2 Summary

You have achieved this module's learning objectives if you can:

- Explain the role of the caregiver in reporting suspected child abuse and neglect
- Follow the requirements of reporting suspected child abuse and neglect according to Florida law
- Identify community resources that provide support for abused and the abuser