



Georgia Volunteer Child Safety Training





Overview

In this training, you will learn what child abuse is and your role in identifying and reporting suspected cases. We will go over the different types of abuse, the indicators to look for, and how to report cases.



What is Child Abuse

- The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment act defines child abuse as "Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent of caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm."



Role of School Staff

- It is your legal responsibility as a school volunteer to identify, report, and prevent child abuse in accordance with Georgia code 19-7-5.
- All Georgia school volunteers are Mandated Reporters and must report suspected child abuse within 24 hours.



Types of Abuse

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



Physical Abuse

- Definition: "Physical Abuse is the intended, non-accidental physical injury or cruelty to a child."
- Examples
 - Slapping, punching, kicking, biting, burning, shaking, beating, etc.



Physical Abuse Indicators

- Physical
 - Bruises
 - Burns
 - Bite marks
- Behavioral
 - Frightened of physical contact
 - Afraid of parents/guardians
 - Bullying other children
 - Acting out in violence
 - Anxious when discussing home environment
- Environmental
 - Family alcohol or drug abuse
 - Family social isolation
 - Parental mental health issues
 - Family crises including unemployment, death, desertion, etc.



Sexual Abuse

- Definition
 - When an adult or older child coerces or forces sexual contact on a child.
- Examples
 - Intercourse, masturbation, lewd showing of genitalia, molestation, sex trafficking



Sexual Abuse Indicators

- **Physical**
 - Sexually Transmitted Diseases
 - Torn or bloody underclothes
 - Itching or pain in the genital area
 - Self-inflicting injuries
- **Behavioral**
 - Experiences nightmares and bed-wetting
 - New fear of person or place
 - Has unusual sexual knowledge
 - Disclosure
 - Mood swings
 - Eating disorders
- **Environmental**
 - Substance abuse
 - Absentee parent
 - New adult living at home



Emotional Abuse

- Definition
 - Pattern of behavior that interferes with a child's psychological growth and development.
- Examples
 - Name-calling, rejection, blaming, shaming, criticizing



Emotional Abuse Indicators

- **Physical**
 - Behind in physical development
 - Speech disorders
 - Disruptive behavior
 - Failure to thrive
- **Behavioral**
 - Immaturity
 - Hyperactive
 - Emotionless
 - Unusual fears
 - Always seeking affection
- **Environmental**
 - Substance abuse
 - Violence
 - Family isolation
 - Parent being unwilling to provide affection for child.



Neglect

- Definition: "Neglect is the chronic or repeated failure to provide life's necessities to children."
- Examples
 - Physical, medical, emotional, nutritional, abandonment, social, educational



Neglect Indicators

- **Physical**
 - Underweight
 - Rotting teeth
 - Unusual developmental delays
 - Poor growth patterns
- **Behavioral**
 - Hunger
 - Stealing
 - Absent from school
 - Consistent fatigue
 - Inappropriate dress
- **Environmental**
 - Unemployment
 - Lack of parenting skills
 - Poverty
 - Lack of interest in child's activities
 - Parental illness



Note on Indicators

- The indicators listed in this training do not cover all the possible signs of abuse. Use your best discernment with noticing anything out of the ordinary. You do not need proof to make a report and you are legally required to report any suspicions of abuse or neglect.



Reporting

- All volunteers are mandatory reporters of child abuse.
- Reports must immediately (within 24 hours or sooner) be made when there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child is being abused.
- Report suspected cases to the individual in charge of your facility and they will make an oral report to the Division of Human Services no later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused.



Reporting

- Reports should include the following information
 - Name and address of child and child's parents/caregivers
 - Child's age
 - Nature and extent of child's injuries, including any evidence
 - Any other helpful information



Reporting

- Failure to report a suspected case of child abuse and who knowingly and willfully fails to do so is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- A person who reports suspected child abuse in good faith is immune from criminal and civil liability under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.



Thank you

- You now know your responsibility to be a Mandated Reporter as a volunteer. If you have any further questions, please reach out to the employee experience team at onboarding@nhaschools.com.

