



## Stopping Child Abuse Now

### Types of Child Abuse

**Physical Abuse:** Slapping, pushing, hitting, etc.

**Sexual Abuse:** Inappropriate touching, sexual activity, involving children in pornography.

**Emotional Abuse:** Excessive or frequent put-downs, invalidating a child's emotions, inappropriate threats.

**Neglect:** Irresponsible neglect of a child's basic needs.

### Protecting Children from Abuse

- Do not leave young children alone or unattended.
- Firmly communicate expectations of physical & emotional boundaries to all adults caring for children, including family members, step-parents & babysitters.

### Teaching Children Self-Protection Skills

- Help children learn the difference between right and wrong touches, even from people they know.
- Teach children assertiveness skills, how to stand up for themselves, how to physically and verbally defend themselves, how to say "no," and when to flee.
- Teach them whom they can turn to in times of danger.

### Warning Signs of Possible Abuse

**Physical:** Unexpected bruises, burns, or fractures; messy appearance; loss of appetite; disturbed sleep; sexually transmitted diseases, or urinary tract infections.

**Behavioral:** Aggressiveness, withdrawal or clinging; fear of a person or place; discomfort with physical contact; molesting other children; suicidal tendencies.

### If You Suspect Abuse

Report suspected abuse immediately to your state's child abuse hotline, call 911 or child welfare services. Take children seriously about abuse. If you need help, ask.

FLORIDA ABUSE HOTLINE:

**1-800-96-ABUSE**

More Info: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/>