



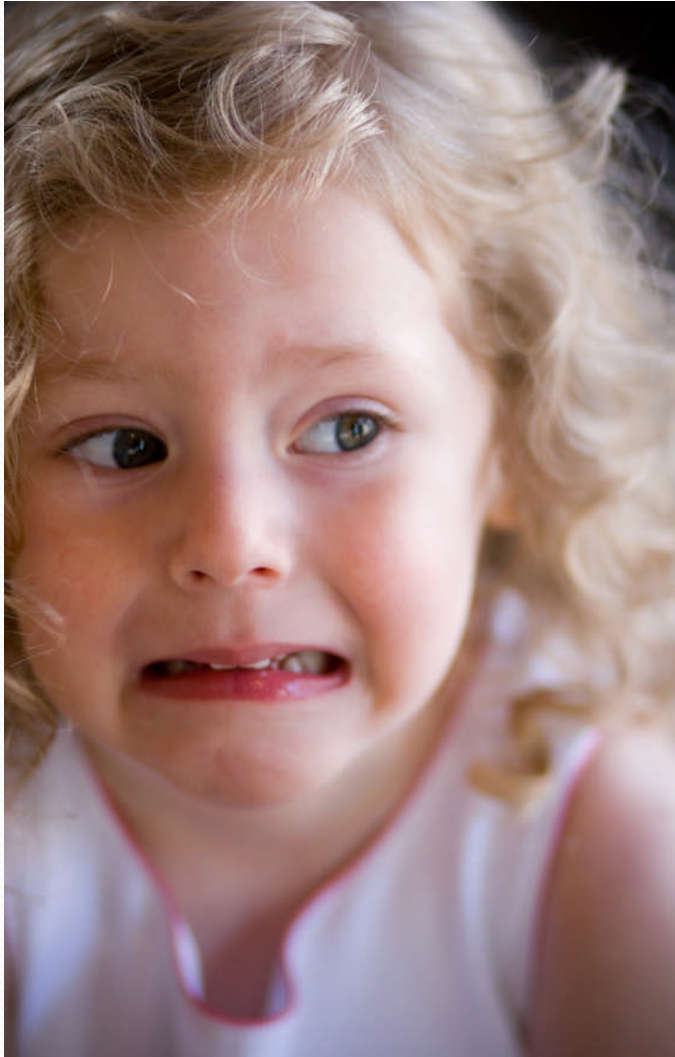
CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS

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Child Abuse in America.....



- Children are suffering from a hidden epidemic of child abuse and neglect.
- Over 3 million reports of child abuse are made every year in the United States; however, those reports can include multiple children.
- In 2007, approximately 5.8 million children were involved in an estimated 3.2 million child abuse reports and allegations.

What's Happening To Our Children

- Nearly **5 U.S. children die** from child abuse **each day**. At least 75 % are younger than age 4.
- An estimated 60 % to 85 % of child deaths resulting from maltreatment are not recorded as such on death certificates.
- A **report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds**.
- Some 90 % of child sexual-abuse victims know their perpetrator; 68 % are abused by family members.



Let's Look At Some Long Term Consequences of Child Abuse

- **Child abuse occurs at every socioeconomic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions and at all levels of education.**
- **More than 30 % of women in prison in the U.S. were abused as children.**
- **More than 60 % of people in drug rehabilitation centers report having been abused or neglected as children.**
- **About 30 % of abused and neglected children are predicted to abuse their own children.**
- **About 80 % of 21-year-olds who were abused as children met criteria for at least one psychological disorder.**



More Consequences of Abuse



Abused children are 25% more likely to experience teen pregnancy

Children who experience child abuse & neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30% more likely to commit violent crime.

Children who have been sexually abused are 2.5 times more likely develop alcohol abuse

Children who have been sexually abused are 3.8 times more likely develop drug addiction

Nearly 2/3's of the people in treatment for drug abuse reported being abused as children

Florida's Definition of Physical Abuse

Citation Ann. Stat. § 39.01



- *Abuse means any willful act or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual injury or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired*
- *Harm to a child's health or welfare can occur when any person inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon the child physical, mental, or emotional injury, and can include:*
 - Purposely giving a child poison, alcohol, drugs, or other substances that substantially affect the child's behavior, motor coordination, or judgment or that result in sickness or internal injury
- *Inappropriate or excessively harsh discipline (this can include, hitting, kicking, biting, burning)*
- *Exposure to a controlled substance or alcohol*
- *Engaging in violent behavior that demonstrates a wanton disregard for the presence of a child and could reasonably result in serious injury to the child*

Florida's Definition of Neglect

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 39.01

- *Neglect occurs when:*
- A child is deprived of, or is allowed to be deprived of, necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment.
- A child is permitted to live in an environment when such deprivation or environment causes a child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired or to be in danger of being significantly impaired.
- Neglect of a child includes acts or omissions.
- *Harm to a child's health or welfare can occur by leaving a child without adult supervision or arrangement appropriate for the child's age or mental or physical condition.*



**Kids NEED daily hugs, love,
attention, encouragement,
and praise!**

Florida's Definition of Emotional Abuse

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 39.01

- *Mental injury means an injury to the intellectual or psychological capacity of a child as evidenced by a discernible and substantial impairment in the ability to function within the normal range of performance and behavior. (Examples ;name calling, insults, cursing at child, withholding appropriate love and affection)*

Florida's Definition of Abandonment

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 39.01

- *Harm to a child can occur when any person abandons a child.*





Florida's Definition of Sexual Abuse

Citation: Ann. Stat. § 39.01

- ***Sexual abuse of a child means one or more of the following acts:***
- Any penetration, however slight, of the vagina or anal opening of one person by the penis of another person, whether or not there is the emission of semen
- Any sexual contact or intentional touching between the genitals or anal opening of one person and the mouth or tongue of another person
- The intentional masturbation of the perpetrator's genitals in the presence of a child
- The intentional exposure of the perpetrator's genitals in the presence of a child, or any other sexual act intentionally perpetrated in the presence of a child, if such exposure or sexual act is for the purpose of sexual arousal or gratification, aggression, degradation, or other similar purpose
- The sexual exploitation of a child, which includes allowing, encouraging, or forcing a child to solicit for or engage in prostitution, or engage in a sexual performance

Sexual Abuse EPIDEMIC

We Must Be A Voice For and a Protector of Our Children

- **1 out of every 3 are girls are sexually abused**
- **Nearly 1 out of every 5 boys are sexually abused – boys report less than girls**
- **Not believing a child who reports sexual abuse can be as traumatic as the sexual abuse its self, especially if the person that did not believe them is a loved one**



Signs of Sexual Abuse

Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when the child:

- **Has difficulty walking or sitting**
- **Suddenly refuses to change for gym or participate in any physical activities**
- **Reports nightmares or bedwetting**
- **Experiences a sudden change in appetite**
- **Shows bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge**
- **Becomes pregnant or contracts a STD, especially if the child is under the age 14**
- **Runs Away**
- **Reports Sexual Abuse by a parent or another adult caregiver**



Important Things Parents Should Know When Talking to Your Child about Child Safety Issues.

- **Don't forget your older children. Children 11-17 are equally at risk to victimization. Older children may have more freedom, make sure they understand safety rules.**
- **When you speak to your child, do so in a CALM, NONTHREATENING manner. Children do not need to be frightened to get your point across. Fear can actually encourage them shut down and refuse to talk.**
- **Speak openly about safety issues. Children are more likely to come to you if these issues have already been openly talked about in your home.**
- **Practice what you talk about. Find opportunities in home and in the community to practice "what if" scenarios.**
- **Children need to know they can tell you or a trusted adult if they feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.**
- **Children should know there will ALWAYS be someone to help them, and they have the right to be safe.**

Child Abuse Prevention Guidelines

- **Never discipline your child when your anger is out of control.**
- **Participate in your child's activities and get to know your child's friends.**
- **Never leave your child unattended, especially in the car.**
- **Teach your child the difference between “good touches,” “bad touches” and “confusing touches.”**
- **Ask questions; for example, when your child tells you he or she doesn't want to be with someone, this could be a red flag.**
- **Listen to them and believe what they say.**



Prevention is So Important

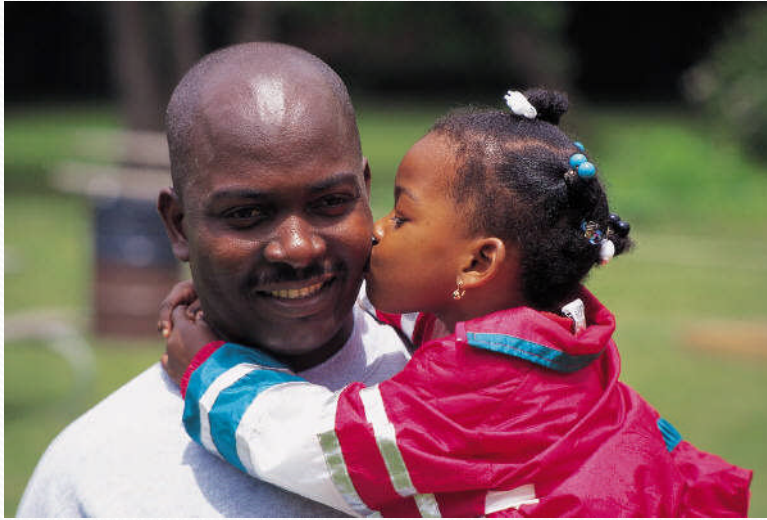
- Be aware of changes in your child's behavior or attitude, and inquire into it.
- Teach your child what to do if you and your child become separated while away from home.
- Teach your child the correct names of his/her private body parts. Use the words Penis and Vagina!
- Be alert for any talk that reveals premature sexual understanding.
- Pay attention when someone shows greater than normal interest in your child.
- Make certain your child's school or day care center will release him/her only to you or someone you have designated.



As Parents We Are Our Child's FIRST TEACHER, This Job DOES NOT End When He attends daycare or Enters Pre-K.

- **A child's brain develops faster begin birth and age 5 than ever again in one's life.**
- **Are you making the most of this time?**
- **According to the ECHOs subtest given to all Florida Kindergarten students; this test indicated the only 44% of students were consistently demonstrating what they children should know and be able to do at the start of kindergarten**
- **Parents, THIS is OUR responsibility, continually sing the ABC song, count, any and everything , always point out the color clothing you and your child are wearing. Turn off the radio in the car or the TV in the house and sing nursery rhymes, talk about the different shapes you see, and read at least one nightly story. A child's ages birth to five is to explore and play, Our job is to LOVE, NUTURE, PROTECT, and TEACH. Even if the time you have with your child is limited use the time you do have to LOVE, TEACH, NURTURE, and HAVE FUN ALL AT THE SAME TIME.**
- **No matter the age of the child you can use the same philosophy, just substitute in addition, multiplication, spelling, etc.**

I want to Thank You for Loving Your Children
and for listening to my presentation.



Resources

- **National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD.** The 24-hour hotline is staffed which offers information about child abuse prevention as well as crisis intervention, literature, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service and support resources.
- **211 – Local Social Service Information Assistance**
- **READ TO YOUR KIDS – Orange County Library** will bring books to you house and offer FREE story times
<http://www.ocls.info/>
- www.letteroftheweek.com – a great resource to help teach you child, letters, shapes, and number
- **Child Abuse and Neglect**
www.childwelfare.gov/can/

Resources

- Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect
www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/
- Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect
www.childwelfare.gov/responding/reporting.cfm
- Florida Abuse Hotline 1-800-96-ABUSE
- Community Counseling Center of Central Florida
#407-291-8009 – Offers Parenting courses and Anger Management classes for Adult and Teens



THANK YOU

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