

Education Update

Child Abuse:

Did You Know?

- ◆ Typically, when abuse occurs, there is a family crisis...divorce, unemployment, relocation, the birth of another child.
- ◆ There is a higher incidence of child abuse with adult alcoholism and drug addiction and when domestic violence occurs in the home.

The Parents of the Abused Child:

- ◆ May have been abused as children and often have low self-esteem.
- ◆ Young parents (teenagers) are more at risk due to the stress of academic, social and career decisions, combined with the responsibilities of parenthood.
- ◆ May have difficulty showing concern for their child.
- ◆ They may be angry at the child for being injured.
- ◆ They may insist the child injured himself, become hostile if questioned further and threaten to take the child home.
- ◆ Their perception of the incident is how it affects them, not the child.
- ◆ During the child's hospitalization, they may not participate in the child's care and may not respond to the child's needs.

If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to your immediate supervisor or contact the Social Work Department.

Child Abuse

Physical Signs of Abuse

- ◆ Welts
- ◆ Human bite marks
- ◆ Burns
- ◆ Bruises on the back, buttocks, genital area, thighs, legs (back of)

Inappropriate Clothing

- ◆ A child dressed in long sleeves or long pants during warm weather.
Question: *What is being concealed?*

Injury may indicate type of abuse

- ◆ Spiral fracture from twisting, or Whiplash from shaking

Conflicting stories

- ◆ From the child and parent about how the injury occurred

Injury inconsistent with the history

- ◆ Bruises on face, back and chest from falling off a bed

Injury is inconsistent with developmental level of child

- ◆ "2 month old tipped coffee over and was burned"

A complaint other than the one associated with abuse

- ◆ "He has diarrhea"....and there is evidence of a black eye and broken arm

Repeated visits to different emergency facilities

Extremes of behavior

- ◆ Unresponsiveness to the parent vs. clingy
- ◆ Accepting of pain vs. fearful
- ◆ Fearful of physical contact from anyone
- ◆ Fearful of strangers vs. unusually outgoing