

Education Update

Trinitas Regional Medical Center
Education Department

April 2011

Child Abuse

Definitions

Child abuse: the infliction of physical or emotional injury to a child

Child neglect: The withholding of basic human needs either deliberately or by extraordinary inattentiveness.

Types of Abuse

Physical: shaking, beating, slapping, burning or failure to provide basic needs

Emotional: failure to provide attention or supervision

Verbal: excessive yelling or constant criticism

Sexual: incest, rape and other sexual activity

Neglect: abandonment, lack of supervision, lack of medical care

Common Signs of Child Abuse

Repeated injuries: bruises, burns, unexplained fractures and cuts or delay in seeking medical treatment

Neglected Appearance: poorly nourished, poor hygiene, inadequate clothing

Disruptive Behavior: frequent negative behavior

Excessive Criticism: frequent and severe discipline when the child is unable to do what is expected

Social Isolation: prevention of attendance at school or community activities

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New Jersey law requires any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse, or acts of child abuse, report this information immediately to the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS).

This agency's goal is to protect children and help families learn to work through problems. DYFS also provides other types of services, such as adoption, selection of foster families and education to the community.

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

Did You Know?

Typically, when abuse occurs there is a family crisis (divorce, birth of another child, unemployment)

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 were abused as children and have low self-esteem.

The parents may insist the child injured himself.