

Supporting a Child

Children need reassurance that they are worthwhile and have done nothing wrong. It is important for educators to provide the following for a child who has disclosed abuse or neglect:

Security

The child needs to know that she/he can trust you and that her/his disclosure will not be made public. She/he needs to know that you will remain supportive.

Structure

The child needs routine. This provides for a sense of security and may be the only structure provided in his/her life. After the child is more confident, she/he will need less direction from you.

Consistency and Predictability

The child needs to know, in advance, that you have expectations of her/him and what these expectations are. Be consistent in your relationship with her/him.

Identity

A child who has been abused will usually suffer from poor self-image. Share positive feedback and praise with the child to help develop a positive self-image.

Sense of Belonging

The child will often lack confidence and pull away from her/his peers. Help her/him become part of the group. Praise and encourage group involvement.

Approval

Child needs the security of approval. Look for opportunities to exhibit this by smiling, encouraging, praising, and recognizing him/her.



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OGDEN, UTAH 84403
(801)393-3366

331 SOUTH RIO GRANDE #307
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84101
(801)532-3404

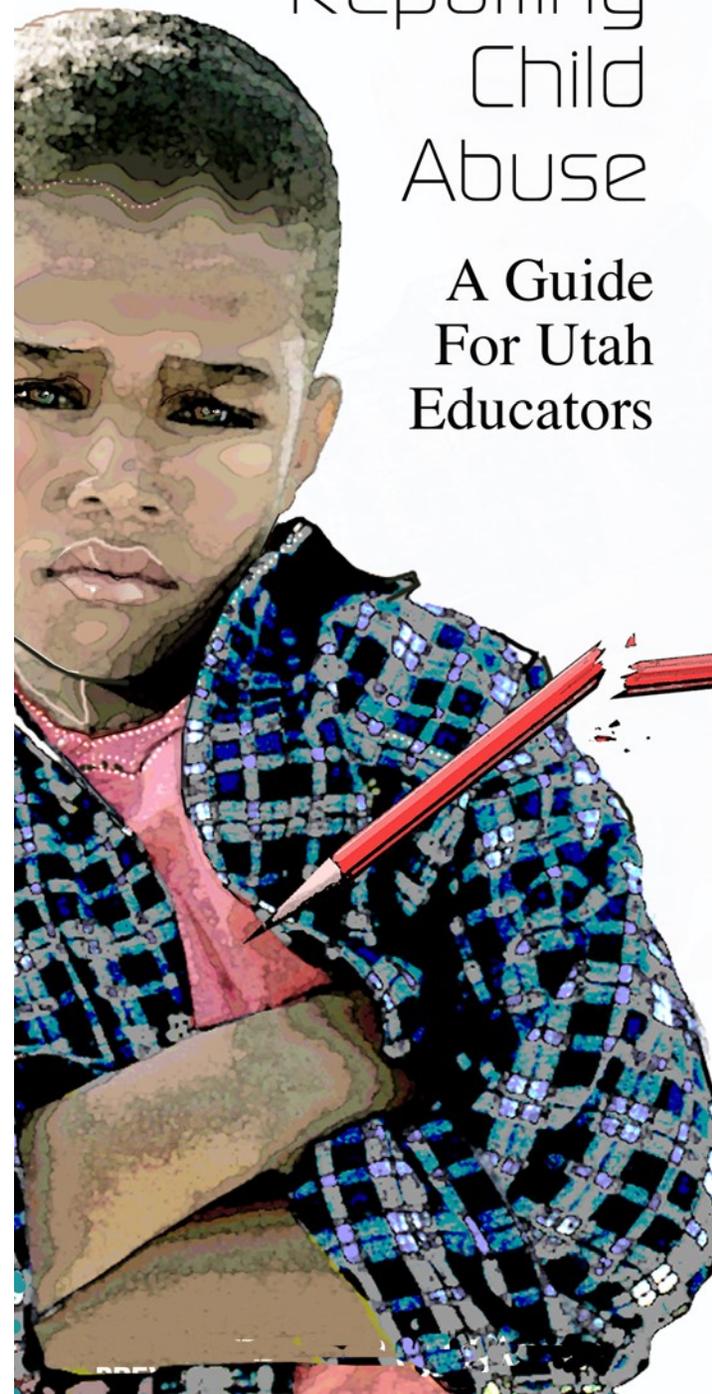
www.preventchildabuseutah.org
1-800-CHILDREN
(244-5373)

Washington County Children's
Justice Center
(435) 634-1134

Statewide Reporting Number
1-855-323-3237

Reporting Child Abuse

A Guide For Utah Educators



Reporting Child Abuse

Utah Child Abuse Reporting Law

The law requires:

any person who has reason to believe a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect to immediately notify the nearest Utah Division of Child and Family Services or law enforcement agency.

any person who observes a child being subjected to conditions that would result in abuse or neglect.

Failure to obey this law constitutes a class "B" misdemeanor and is punishable by up to six-months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

Utah Code Ann. 62A-4a-411 (1994)

Making A Report

The best way to help stop child abuse is to report it. All reports to the Utah Division of Child and Family Services remain strictly confidential.

Any person making a report in good faith, is immune from any liability.

Once a report is received, the case is assigned a priority depending on the seriousness of the abuse and the danger to the child.

Indicators of Child Abuse

If a child talks about being abused, take him or her seriously. Some possible indicators of abuse may include:

Physical Abuse

Physical Indicators
unexplained bruises
unexplained burns
confinement
unexplained welts

Behavioral Indicators
easily frightened
wary of physical contact
afraid to go home
destructive to others or self

Sexual Abuse

Physical Indicators
bed-wetting
soiling
chronic constipation

Behavioral Indicators
withdrawal or depression
passive behavior
aggressive behavior
poor self esteem
lack of eye contact with adults
knowledge of sexual acts
beyond their years

Emotional Abuse

Physical Indicators
delayed physically
ulcers
developmental lags
habit disorders

Behavioral Indicators
poor self esteem
difficulty expressing feelings
problems with relationships

Neglect

Physical Indicators
abandonment
thin, starvation
lack of supervision
lack of medical care
frequent absent or tardy
poor hygiene

Behavioral Indicators
steals, begs
self destructive
failure to thrive

It Happens Too Often

2012 Child Abuse Statistics

19,544 child abuse cases were reported to Utah DCFS.

11,543 of those referrals were supported.

Domestic Violence, in the presence of a child, had a higher reporting rate than any other type of abuse.

Help Stop Child Abuse

Alert teachers can identify the early signs and symptoms of child abuse and take the first step towards helping children and families.

Remember, you only need to have reason to believe abuse has occurred. Contact your local DCFS or law enforcement.

**Statewide
Reporting Number 1-855-323-3237**

With your help, we can make a difference!