



Pediatric Abuse and Neglect

Disability and Maltreatment



Risk Factors:

- Caretakers can more easily become stressed with the demands placed on them when caring for a child with a disability.
- Abusers may take advantage of kids who have problems speaking, hearing or who don't understand social situations very well. These children may be more likely to experience sexual abuse.

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandsafety/abuse.html>

Disability and Maltreatment (continued)



- Kids with behavior problems, like, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or other conduct problems, may be more likely to experience physical abuse because parents can become frustrated by the child's difficult behavior and respond harshly.
- Kids who are less able to do things independently rely more on adults for their care. These children may be more likely to be sexually abused or neglected by adults.

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandsafety/abuse.html>

Disability and Maltreatment (continued)



- Signs of abuse may be ignored or missed by a professional
- Listen to your gut! If something doesn't feel right, report it.

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandsafety/abuse.html>

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/focus.pdf>

<https://preventchildabuse.org/resource/maltreatment-ofchildren-withdisabilities-2/>

Know the Signs of Possible Abuse



- Sudden changes in, or unusual behavior
 - Cuts and bruises
 - Broken bones (not due to a medical condition)
 - Burns
 - Complaints about painful genitals
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- <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandsafety/abuse.html>

Know the Signs of Possible Neglect



- Constant hunger or thirst (not due to a medical condition)
- Dirty hair or skin
- Chronic diaper rash (not due to a medical condition)

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandsafety/abuse.html>

Reporting Abuse



- Do Not “Take matters into your own hands” (i.e. conducting your own investigation, or calling DSS)
- Instances of a patient’s abuse/neglect must be reported immediately to the **Area Director**, after ensuring the safety of the patient.
- If the Area Director is not available, report the concern to one of the following: Program Manager, Program Operational Manager, Clinical Specialist, or Kim Schmidlin.
- The area director must immediately report any suspected abuse/neglect to the Corporate Compliance Officer.
- Report any concerns you may have ASAP.
- Signs of abuse may be ignored or missed by a professional