

# Be A Child's Hope

**"Hands are not for Hurting"**

## Help Prevent Child Abuse

*Child abuse IS NOT limited to any particular group of people, whether it be social, economic, ethnic, religious or cultural.*



### WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

Child Abuse occurs when somebody or a situation threatens the survival, security or the development of a child.

### TYPES OF ABUSE

**Physical Abuse:** any physical injury caused by hitting, kicking, shaking, burning or any show of force.

**Sexual Abuse:** any sexual action involving a child (fondling, rape and indecent exposure).

**Emotional Abuse:** behavior that destroys a child's confidence (threats, rejection or constant criticism).

**Neglect:** when a caregiver fails to meet a child's basic needs (housing, food, clothing, medical care and supervision).

**Domestic Violence:** In Florida, DV is a form of child abuse and neglect. Children are often emotionally affected or injured while trying to protect a parent.

### STATISTICS:

- 4 children die every day in America as a result of child abuse
- 3 out of 4 of these victims are under the age of 4
- A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds
- One third of abuse and neglected children will later abuse their own children, continuing the horrible cycle of child abuse
- Marion County had 4414 cases of child abuse in 2008/2009



# CHILD ABUSE:

Recognize It, Report It, Prevent It!



## SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE

1. **Physical** signs include cuts, bruises, burns or other injuries, especially when the child is hesitant or evasive when you ask him or her what happened.
2. **Emotional** signs include depression, low self-esteem, anger, apathy or distrust.
3. **Social** signs include withdrawal, relationship problems, does not tolerate physical or emotional closeness or aggression towards others.

### TIPS FOR PARENTS:

1. Be active in your child's activities.
2. Talk to your child.
3. Be supportive of your child.
4. Watch for changes in your child's behavior.
5. Learn alternative ways to discipline and manage your child.



### FOR LOCAL INFORMATION ON CHILD ABUSE:

[www.EndKidsTears.com](http://www.EndKidsTears.com) - [www.KimberlysCottage.org](http://www.KimberlysCottage.org)  
[www.BreakTheSilenceOnViolence.org](http://www.BreakTheSilenceOnViolence.org) - [www.capp.peds.ufl.edu](http://www.capp.peds.ufl.edu)

*Feeling overwhelmed or stressed?*

Call the **Parent Hotline at (800) 352-5683** (7am to 11pm daily)

#### Sources:

[www.ChildHelp.org](http://www.ChildHelp.org) - [www.FamilyAdvocacy.net](http://www.FamilyAdvocacy.net)

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