

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Jasper School District

April 2015

Every year children are injured or killed by abuse that often could have been prevented by reporting early findings.

As school employees we are ALL mandated reporters. That means if we see something that indicates there is abuse or neglect then we must report it not to our co-workers or our supervisors but to the hotline 1-800-482-5964.

If we suspect and do not call then not only is at least one child still in danger but others may also soon be a victim. The other problem is by law being a mandated reporter and not reporting incidents you believe to be harmful or neglectful can lead to liability problems for you. Calling your local DHS worker is not reporting. It must be made to the Child Abuse Hotline. The law says, Mandated Reporters SHALL “immediately report” suspected child maltreatment to the Hotline when they have “reasonable cause to suspect” that a child has been abused or neglected.

What kind of things might we need to look for??

Some Signs of Physical Abuse Physical: marks in unusual places or in patterns, bruises in various stages of healing, Explanation of injury differs from parent explanation. Behavioral: Says the parent deserves to be hurt, Is afraid of certain people.

Some Signs of Neglect Physical: Underweight, Always hungry, Not clean, Inappropriately dressed, Denied medical care. Behavioral: Begs or steals food, Arrives early and leaves late, Frequent, unexplained absences, Overtired or listless

Some Signs of Sexual Abuse Physical: Difficulty walking or sitting, wearing torn or stained underwear, injury or discharge from genitals, pain during urination. Behavioral: Acts withdrawn or younger than age, Displays sexual behavior, Tell you that he/she has secrets that they cannot tell, tries to hurt themselves.

Not all reports called in to the hotline are accepted to be investigated, however they are noted and recorded. This means repeated calls about problems may be needed to build a case. When in doubt call it in. All children deserve to live an abuse and neglect free life!