Strategies to Deter Child Abuse

Child Guidance
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Child Abuse and Neglect

Last year:
• 231 Texas children died because of abuse or neglect at the hands of their parents or guardians.
• 65,948 children were confirmed victims of abuse or neglect.
• 17,108 children were removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect.
Child Abuse

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services investigates reports of abuse and neglect of children.
Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is nonaccidental physical injury (ranging from minor bruises to severe fractures or death) as a result of punching, beating, kicking, biting, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, hitting (with a hand, stick, strap, or other object), burning, or otherwise harming a child.
Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse includes activities by a parent or caregiver such as fondling a child’s genitals, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure, and exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials.
Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse (or psychological abuse) is a pattern of behavior that impairs a child’s emotional development or sense of self-worth. This may include constant criticism, threats, or rejection, as well as withholding love, support, or guidance.
Abandonment

A child is considered to be abandoned when the parent’s identity or whereabouts are unknown, the child has been left alone in circumstances where the child suffers serious harm, or the parent has failed to maintain contact with the child or provide reasonable support for a specified period of time.
Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is an element of the definition of child abuse or neglect in many States.
Child Maltreatment: Consequences

Most of the studies examining the consequences of child maltreatment have used a retrospective approach.
Physical Consequences

Maltreatment during infancy or early childhood can cause important regions of the brain to form and function improperly with long-term consequences on cognitive, language, and socioemotional development, and mental health.
Psychological Consequences

In one long-term study, as many as 80 percent of young adults who had been abused met the diagnostic criteria for at least one psychiatric disorder at age 21.
Behavioral Consequences

Children who experience maltreatment are at increased risk for smoking, alcoholism, and drug abuse as adults, as well as engaging in high-risk sexual behaviors.
Prevention Programs

- Public awareness
- Skills-based curricula
- Parent education
- Home visitation
- Respite and crisis care programs
- Family resource centers
Protective Factors

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete supports for parents
Effective prevention strategies are necessary to promote awareness about child maltreatment and to foster commitment to social change.

- Child-Parent Centers
- Nurse-family Partnership
- Triple P Program
Child Maltreatment: Prevention Strategies

**Triple P for Parents**
(click on link)
Action Plans

It's up to us as a community to make a difference in our children's lives. It's up to all of us to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. We can do this as individuals and together as a community.
What Can Teachers and Child-Care Workers Do?

Teachers and child-care workers are often a child's first line of defense. They play a big role in their lives.
What Can Neighbors Do?

As neighbors, we need to do our part to increase public and private investment in our neighborhoods. Get to know your neighbors. Learn to recognize any problems that might lead to abuse or neglect.
What Can Faith-Based Organizations Do?

A community's most influential organizations are often its religious institutions. Churches, temples, synagogues, mosques, and other faith-based groups play an important role in helping families and children who are at risk of child abuse. Spiritual leaders can add their voices to preventing abuse and neglect.
What Can Coaches and Sports Leagues Do?

Child-centered coaching is a philosophy that emphasizes the importance of helping young children develop their positive overall self-image through sports. "Try your hardest to do the best you can" is the message that, when carried over to other aspects of life, will truly help children have fun and feel like winners.
How Can I Report Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation?

- If you suspect child abuse, you can report it by calling 1-800-252-5400 24 hours a day, seven days a week, nationwide. Or visit www.txabusehotline.org and place a report through our secure website, and you will receive a response within 24 hours.
Real Stories of Hope

Help and Hope Videos
(click on link)
How You Can Help

• Get to know your neighbors
• Help a family under stress
• Reach out to children in your community
• Be an active community member
• Keep your neighborhood safe
• Learn how to recognize and report signs of child abuse and neglect
Hotlines and Online Resources

Find Services Near You
(click on link)
Hotlines and Online Resources

Find Help
(click on link)
Picture Door Organizer Project

Picture Door Organizer
(click on link)
References and Resources

Microsoft Clip Art: Used with permission from Microsoft.

Textbook:

Websites:
Center for Disease Control
Child Maltreatment Prevention
http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/childmaltreatment/

Children’s Bureau
The Children’s Bureau (CB) is the first federal agency within the U.S. government—and in fact, the world—to focus exclusively on improving the lives of children and families.
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb

Help for Parents. Hope for Kids
It's not easy being a parent. But recognizing that you have room for improvement is the first step toward becoming a better parent. Here you will learn where to find the help you need to begin your journey toward becoming a healthier, happier family.
http://helpandhope.org/preventing-child-abuse.html

Medline Plus
Child Abuse

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Help for Parents. hope for Kids
http://www.helpandhope.org/index.html

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References and Resources

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Child Abuse and Neglect
https://www.childwelfare.gov/can/

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect
https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/preventingcan.cfm

YouTube (tm):
Picture Door Organizer
This organizer is a multi-purpose tool. The students can incorporate information, key terms, sequential events, graphics and concept ideas. It has a hidden element that will make a presentation pop!
http://youtu.be/weY4PtrfM3o

Videos
Help for Parents. Hope for Kids
It's not easy being a parent. But recognizing that you have room for improvement is the first step toward becoming a better parent. Here you will learn where to find the help you need to begin your journey toward becoming a healthier, happier family.
http://helpandhope.org/preventing-child-abuse.html