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CHILD ABUSE RECOGNITION AND REPORTING

**A self-study guide for people
working with children**

by

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Human Development and Family Studies

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The authors wish to thank George Hill for his work on the first Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting self-study guide. He shared his expertise in educational methodology and helped shape the instructional approach to this topic at a time when self-study was far less common than it is at present. We appreciate his contribution.

Formatting by Mara Lea Wright & Sam Mitchell
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

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3) Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting – Reilly, Martin

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Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting:
A Self-Study Guide for People Working with Children

Goal: The goal of this self-study guide is to help people who work with youth gain an understanding of child maltreatment and related implications.

Objectives: After reading and completing the quizzes in each section of this guide you will:

- Be able to list and define four general types of child maltreatment
- Be aware of potential indicators of child abuse and/or neglect
- Know where to call to report suspected child abuse and neglect
- Know what information to include in a report of suspected child maltreatment
- Know University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's policies and procedures for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect and client confidentiality
- Understand how to respond when a child discloses abuse or neglect
- Know more about how to interact with children in a manner that helps you and them be safer
- State why background and criminal checks are necessary

If you have questions about this curriculum, you can contact:

Youth Development Specialist
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
4955 Energy Way
Reno, Nevada 89502
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Instructions for Users of this Guide

We at Cooperative Extension welcome you and thank you for your commitment to working with youth. The topic of child abuse and neglect is an important part of your training. This self-study guide covers child abuse and neglect issues of special importance to you and anyone who works with children, youth and families. To get the most from this guide:

- Read everything carefully and thoroughly.
- After each section, complete the quizzes.

If you work or volunteer for University of Nevada Cooperative Extension:

- Read the five lessons and complete all five quizzes, then schedule a meeting with your supervisor.
- At the meeting, review any questions you may have and fill in a printed copy of the Course Completion Checklist on the following page.
- Keep a copy of your completed checklist.
- Your supervisor will send the completed checklist to our administrative offices to verify that you have completed this training.
- If you still have questions after meeting with your supervisor, you can call one of the authors, Jackie Reilly (775) 784-4848.

If you do NOT work for University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, you may want to check with your supervisor regarding your agency's training requirements for recognizing and reporting suspected child maltreatment.

Completion Checklist – Keep in your personnel or employment file

_____ has satisfactorily completed the following quizzes:
(print name of individual completing course)

Supervisor and staff/volunteer should initial indicating each quiz has been completed.

Staff/Volunteer Supervisor

_____	_____	Review Quiz #1 - Child abuse and neglect: An overview
_____	_____	Review Quiz #2 - Responding to a disclosure
_____	_____	Review Quiz #3 - Reporting child abuse and neglect
_____	_____	Review Quiz #4 - Guidelines for interacting with children
_____	_____	Review Quiz #5 - Cooperative Extension policies and protocol

Staff/Volunteer should initial, indicating agreement with the following two statements. Supervisor should initial confirming that a conversation was held with staff/volunteer about the two statements.

Staff/Volunteer Supervisor

_____	_____	I know where to report suspected child maltreatment.
_____	_____	I understand the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Child Abuse Reporting policies and procedures.

Date _____ Signature _____
staff/volunteer

Date _____ Signature _____
supervisor





Lesson 1: Child Abuse and Neglect: An Overview

Why should I learn about child abuse and neglect?

This self-study guide focuses on the early detection of child abuse and neglect - a widespread, insidious problem. In 2009, over 2.5 million referrals involving allegations of maltreatment of 3.6 million children were reported in the United States; approximately 22 percent of these were substantiated. In 2009, “an estimated 1,676 children died due to child abuse or neglect; the overall rate of child fatalities was 2.34 deaths per 100,000 children.” (Child Maltreatment 2009) “The very youngest children, newborn to 3 years old, are at the highest risk of child maltreatment, with 78 percent of fatalities due to maltreatment being in that age group.” (Child Maltreatment, 2006).

Child abuse and neglect, however, are much more than a set of statistics on a page. Long after maltreatment has occurred, children may continue to be hurt by abuse and neglect. Abused children are likely to have other problems - difficulties in school, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, acting out or even violent behavior. Child abuse and neglect are costly not only to the victims and their families but also to society. The physical pain and emotional suffering are often reflected in the extra dollars needed to pay for emergency treatment, foster care, therapy, special education and even prison facilities. This program is about what we, as people who work with children, can do to help put a halt to child abuse in our communities. This job is not easy, but it is one of the most important tasks we can perform.

In Nevada, with very few exceptions, the number of reports of suspected child abuse and neglect has increased each year. In 2008, 12,8241 cases of suspected child abuse or neglect were reported in Nevada (Nevada Kids Count Data Book, 2009). Nevada ranks among the highest in the nation in the number of reported cases of child abuse and neglect per capita. The next two pages provide you with information about the changing number of calls received in Nevada from 1990 to 2008 and number of reports received in each county of Nevada during 2008 (Nevada Kids Count Data Book, 2009).

Nevada Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics 1990 - 2008

The child abuse and neglect statistics for each calendar year 1990-2008 reflect reports entered into the central registry by state and local child protective agencies as required by law and the State of Nevada Regulations for Child Protective Services.

Questions concerning this report can be directed to the Social Service Specialist in charge of child abuse statistics with the Division of Child and Family Services, 4126 Technology Way, Carson City, NV, 89706. Phone (775) 684-4483.

Number of Reports: State of Nevada

Year	Unknown	Unsubstantiated	Substantiated	Total
1990	3,130	4,402	4,754	12,286
1991	2,967	5,294	4,597	12,858
1992	2,806	6,403	4,705	13,914
1993	1,941	6,219	4,408	12,568
1994	1,844	6,561	4,924	13,329
1995	1,097	6,890	4,729	12,716
1996	927	7,677	4,954	13,558
1997	938	8,543	5,204	14,685
1998	909	8,053	4,743	13,705
1999	647	8,754	3,983	13,384
2000	620	8,736	3,441	12,797
2001	424	9,494	2,759	12,677
2002	283	10,037	2,875	13,195
2003	30	10,969	2,909	13,908
2004	19	10,566	2,789	13,374
2005	45	11,211	2,903	14,159
2006	3	11,726	3,130	14,859
2007	30	12,745	3,037	15,812
2008	834	8,520	2,887	12,241

Glossary of Terms

Types of Reports

- **Unknown:** The receiving/investigating agency was unable to locate the alleged perpetrator and/or interview the child; there was insufficient information or evidence; or the information was too old to pursue.
- **Unsubstantiated:** No maltreatment was found through the investigation/assessment process.
- **Substantiated:** The reported abusive or neglectful situation/incident was confirmed through the investigation/assessment process.

Source: Nevada Kids Count Data Book, 2009

Nevada Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics 2008

The table below presents the numbers of child abuse/neglect reports received by county in the 2008 calendar year.

Number of Reports: Nevada Counties

COUNTY	UNKNOWN	UNSUBSTANTIATED	SUB-STANTIATED	TOTAL REPORTS
Carson City	14	385	57	456
Churchill	24	204	39	267
Clark	261	5,814	1,759	7,834
Douglas	7	189	24	220
Elko	15	225	40	280
Esmeralda	0	1	0	1
Eureka	1	3	0	4
Humboldt	40	52	14	106
Lander	4	49	8	61
Lincoln	2	15	0	17
Lyon	28	390	51	469
Mineral	8	27	7	42
Nye	4	166	8	178
Pershing	5	28	2	35
Storey	0	18	3	21
Washoe	181	1,858	593	2,632
White Pine	16	118	23	157
Total Rural NV	168	1,873	276	2,317
NEVADA	610	9,545	2,628	12,783

Source: Nevada Kids Count Data Book 2009. Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Not all reported cases are substantiated. As you can see from the definitions for “unknown” and “unsubstantiated” on page 8, there are many reasons for this. A 30 to 40 percent substantiation rate occurs in Nevada and across the nation.



The following charts list types of abuse that occurred repeatedly in Nevada in 2008 and perpetrators in 2007. Children may experience multiple forms of abuse and/or neglect. Because some children are maltreated more than one time and in more than one way, the number of incidents exceeds the number of substantiated cases. In the first table below, note that neglect is the most prevalent form of maltreatment in Nevada, followed by physical abuse.

Type of Maltreatment for Substantiated Cases Only

Type of Maltreatment	Number of Incidents to Children	Percentage of Total Incidents
Neglect	5,530	77
Physical Abuse	786	11
Emotional Abuse/Neglect	617	9
Sexual Abuse/Exploitation	230	3
Fatal	13	0.001
Total	7,176	100.00

You may notice in the table below that natural parents are the most frequent perpetrators of child abuse and neglect. This is not the case, however, with regard to sexual abuse. More nonbiological caregivers are perpetrators of sexual abuse than parents or relatives.

Perpetrator's Relationship to Child

Relationship to Victim(s)	% of Total Relationships to Victims
Natural Parent (mother/father)	86.78
Other	5.41
Stepparent	3.53
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	0.87
Foster Parent	0.64
Adoptive Parent	0.49
Other Relative	0.29
Unknown	0.15
Babysitter	0.10
Institution Staff	0.10
Teen Parent	0.01

Child maltreatment is usually categorized as one of four types: **Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Sexual Abuse** or **Neglect**. We will be defining and explaining each of these in further detail later in this study guide.

If you are uncomfortable.

Because child abuse and neglect are widespread, it is quite possible that some of the people reading this may be survivors of child abuse and/or neglect. We know that this topic may not be easy for anyone who has been a victim nor is it easy for others. We acknowledge and respect that and hope this training will not be too uncomfortable for you. But if you do find this experience evoking feelings of sadness, pain or anger about being a survivor, please take the steps necessary to take care of yourself by seeking the help of a trained professional therapist. If you need to talk with someone, you can call one of the following Crisis Call Center lines: in Nevada 1-800-992-5757 or, if you can't get through on the 800 number, you can call 775-784-8090.

If you feel frustrated.

We also realize that you may be aware of a suspected case that was reported, and it seemed as though nothing happened. This can occur due to human errors, lack of substantiation following investigation, or legal complications. Such an experience can be frustrating and heartbreaking. Additionally, you may be aware of people who have been falsely accused of child abuse and neglect. This can be devastating to a person and his or her family. It is important to know, however, that false reports made by children are rare. Nevertheless, adults will sometimes use children to "get back at" or "get even with" another adult by having the child lie about abuse. Despite occasional problems, we need to report suspected abuse or neglect and let the professional investigators do their job.

He or she?

As you read this guide, we will refer to "he" or "she." We like to be fair, so we will alternate between using he and she, but remember, when we use either one, we are referring to all people.

Global and historical perspective.

Child abuse and neglect is a global concern and problem. Although there are different definitions of child abuse and sexual practices across the world, child abuse and neglect happen in all the countries of the world.

Additionally, what we now define as child abuse has not always been seen as inappropriate. In the past, children and women were considered property of their fathers and husbands. Use of physical force was considered appropriate and, in fact, expected to "make" them do what the man wanted. That is, it was not considered wrong to beat children or women into "proper" behavior.

Defining Child Abuse and Neglect

According to Nevada State law NRS 432B.020:

1. *“Abuse or neglect of a child” means, except as otherwise provided in subsection 2:*
(a) *Physical or mental injury of a non-accidental nature;*
(b) *Sexual abuse or sexual exploitation; or*
(c) *Negligent treatment or maltreatment as set forth in NRS 432B.140, of a child caused or allowed by a person responsible for his welfare under circumstances which indicate that the child's health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm.*

2. *A child is not abused or neglected, nor is his health or welfare harmed or threatened for the sole reason that his:*

(a) *Parent delivers the child to a provider of emergency services pursuant to NRS 432B.630, if the parent complies with the requirements of paragraph (a) of subsection 3 of that section; or*

(b) *Parent or guardian, in good faith, selects and depends upon nonmedical remedial treatment for such child, if such treatment is recognized and permitted under the laws of this state in lieu of medical treatment. This paragraph does not limit the court in ensuring that a child receive a medical examination and treatment pursuant to NRS 62.280.*

3. *As used in this section, “allow” means to do nothing to prevent or stop the abuse or neglect of a child in circumstances where the person knows or has reason to know that a child is abused or neglected.*

(Added to NRS by 1985, 1368; A 2001, 1255; 2003, 1149)

Child maltreatment can be categorized and defined in one of four major areas: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. There are two kinds of indicators of child maltreatment: physical and behavioral. Both physical signs and behavioral symptoms can be used to help identify potential victims. Physical indicators, such as injuries, can be easier to detect, but injuries are not always visible or external. The child’s behavior also can be an important clue. In some cases, behavior may be the only indication of abuse or neglect.

NOTE: When reviewing lists of indicators for abuse and neglect, keep in mind that these are indicators. If a child exhibits a behavior or symptom, it does not automatically mean that she has been abused or neglected. For example, a child with a new baby in the family may start acting like a baby due to the changes in the family structure. In this case, abuse is not the cause of the behavior. Adults need to be alert to the presence of a combination of indicators over a period of time. Research also suggests that there are a number of other symptoms displayed by children that may indicate abuse or neglect. The presence of a single indicator does not automatically mean abuse or neglect has occurred. However, a single indicator may warrant your attention, depending on what it is. For example, if the single indicator suggests a serious problem — such as unexplained burn marks — you should report. On the other hand, if the single indicator could easily be the result of something other than child maltreatment — such as speech delays — then you could observe and try to get more information.

Physical Abuse is any act which results in a nonaccidental physical injury (intentional, deliberate assault such as burning, cutting, twisting of limbs, hitting, biting, poking, shaking or excessive corporal punishment). Physical abuse also includes any permanent or temporary disfigurement or impairment of the body. “Nonaccidental” means an injury resulting from an event that a person responsible for a child could reasonably predict, even if the person did not intend to abuse or neglect the child.

Some physical indicators of physical abuse include unexplained:

- bruises, bites and welts
- fractures
- cuts, scratches or abrasions
- burns

Some behavioral indicators of physical abuse are present when a child:

- is wary of adult contacts
- is apprehensive when other children cry
- exhibits behavioral extremes, such as aggression or withdrawal
- is afraid to go home
- reports injury

A special case of physical abuse is Shaken Baby Syndrome. Shaken Baby Syndrome is a severe form of head injury that occurs when a baby is shaken forcibly enough to cause the baby’s brain to bounce against his or her skull (National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome, n.d.). This may cause bruising, swelling and bleeding (intracerebral hemorrhage) of the brain which may lead to permanent, severe brain damage or even death. It usually occurs in children younger than 2 years old, but may be seen in children up to the age of 5.

Some behavioral indicators of Shaken Baby Syndrome may include:

- Lethargy, sluggishness or nonresponsiveness
- Loss of consciousness
- Pale or bluish skin
- Vomiting
- Convulsions

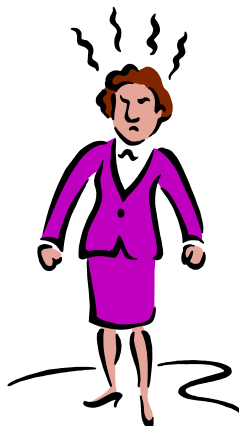
Emotional abuse includes excessive verbal assaults on a continuous basis, such as: put downs, threats, sarcasm, screaming or blaming. It also includes chronically ignoring and/or rejecting a child. Emotional or mental abuse includes an injury to the intellectual or psychological capacity or the emotional condition of a child as evidenced by an observable and substantial impairment of his ability to function within his normal range of performance or behavior.

Some physical indicators of emotional abuse:

- speech disorders
- delays in physical development
- failure to thrive
- poor appetite
- daytime toilet accidents

Some behavioral indicators of emotional abuse:

- sucking, biting or rocking
- has antisocial behavior
- exhibits developmental lags
- seems depressed
- attempts suicide
- has poor social skills
- has problems with peers
- exhibits extremes in behavior, such as overly aggressive or overly passive



Sexual abuse is sexual activity between a child and another person and usually includes an element of unequal power or coercion. Children, 16 years of age or younger, are not considered consenting participants. Sexual assault happens when one person uses threats or bribes to engage the other person in sexual activity or when one of the persons exploits the other. Exploitation occurs when individuals use a situation to their own advantage without regard for the other person. Sexual assault includes, but is not limited to: rape, oral sex, anal intercourse, incest, fondling or obscene remarks. Sexual exploitation includes, but is not limited to: taking pornographic pictures or movies of minors, promoting prostitution with minors, obscene phone calls or inappropriate exposure of genitalia. Normal exploration between young children of the same age, such as "playing doctor," is not considered sexual abuse.

Some physical indicators of sexual abuse include:

- difficulty in walking or sitting
- torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- painful, itching, bruised, bleeding or inflamed genital or anal areas
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)
- pregnancy
- unusual or foul odor

Some behavioral indicators of sexual abuse include:

- withdrawal, fantasy or infantile behavior
- depression
- bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge
- delinquency or running away
- excessive masturbation
- report of sexual assault
- act out sexual behavior
- aggression

Neglect is lack of care or attention to a child by a parent or caregiver that endangers a child's health or welfare, including: failure to provide food, clothing or shelter, lack of medical care, education, supervision or failing to protect a child from abuse. It is considered negligence when lack of care is due to the behavior, faults or habits (such as illegal drug use) of the person responsible for the child's welfare or when adults refuse to provide the care and attention, and they are able to do so. Living in poverty does not automatically mean that parents are neglectful.

Some physical indicators of neglect:

- is consistently hungry
- has poor hygiene
- is underweight or exhibits other signs of malnutrition
- has developmental delays
- lack of consistent supervision
- has speech problems
- is not dressed appropriately
- has unattended physical problems or medical abandonment

Some behavioral indicators of neglect:

- begs or steals food
- is overly passive
- stays at program for extended periods
- is easily frustrated or angry
- exhibits constant fatigue
- asks for lots of help
- abuses alcohol or drugs
- is inattentive or impulsive
- is delinquent
- states there is no caregiver
- is overly dependent on leader or teacher

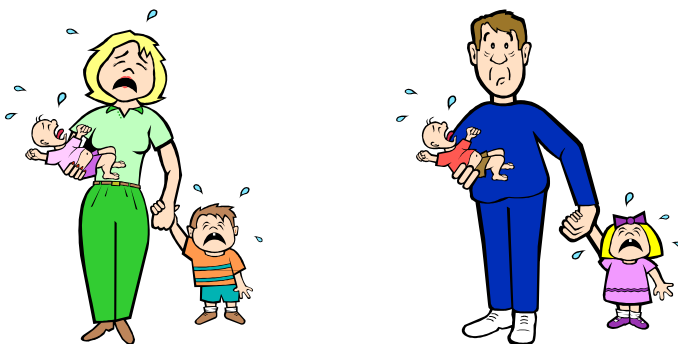
Effects of child maltreatment

In summary, we have focused on four types of child maltreatment: physical abuse (any act that results in a nonaccidental physical injury), emotional abuse (injury to the intellectual or psychological capacity or the emotional well-being of the child), sexual abuse (sexual assault or any sexual exploitation), and neglect (lack of care which endangers the child's health or welfare).

The long-term effects of all types of maltreatment can be devastating. They can include substance abuse, psychological problems, and suicide. Reporting suspected abuse or neglect can help to stop the destructive process and start the healing process.

Characteristics of people who abuse or neglect children

Abused and neglected children are found in families at all economic levels, from all racial and ethnic backgrounds and from every geographic location. People are more likely to behave in ways that can hurt children or lead to child abuse and neglect when they are unable to take good care of themselves. When children fail to live up to parents' expectations, parents may become frustrated and lash out at their children. By participating in parenting, prevention or therapy programs, parents can take better care of themselves and their children.



The following tables provide information about the characteristics of people who abuse children.

Child maltreatment is more likely to occur in homes in which there is:

- stress of poverty and unemployment
- lack of social support to help parents do a good job of parenting
- conflict and/or violence between spouses or partners
- limited child development knowledge
- a child who has special needs
- a child who is hard to comfort or challenging to raise

Additionally, abuse and neglect are more likely to occur when parents or caregivers:

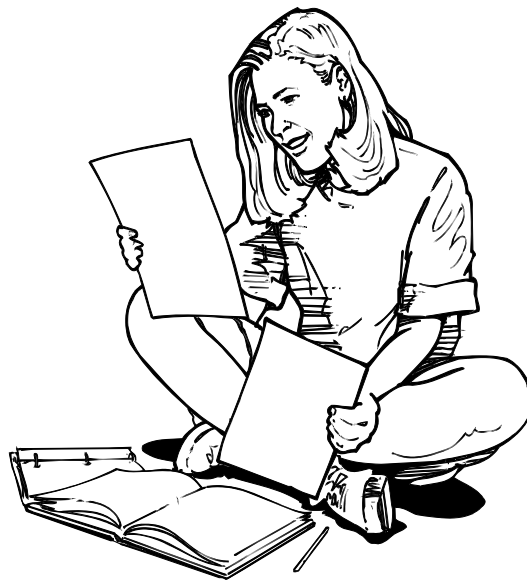
- abuse alcohol or other substances
- have mental health problems
- are highly vulnerable to the stress of caring for children
- have low self-esteem and feel isolated
- use more physical punishment than positive guidance
- were abused themselves as children
- have unrealistic expectations of their children's abilities and behavior

Note the characteristics of child sexual abusers:

- more non-biological caregivers (like step or adoptive parents, baby-sitters, boyfriends or girlfriends) sexually abuse than do birth parents and relatives
- more males than females sexually abuse
- children are sexually abused more often by people they know than by strangers

In summary, research suggests that abusive or neglectful families are usually experiencing stress of some kind. However, not all families experiencing stress are abusive or neglectful. Being supportive of a family during stressful times may be a successful prevention method.

QUIZ TIME: Complete REVIEW QUIZ #1 on the next page now. After completing the quiz check your answers on the page following the quiz. Review the information in the guide if necessary and note any questions for your supervisor.



REVIEW QUIZ #1

Child Abuse and Neglect: An Overview

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What are four types of child maltreatment? From the list below please circle those *four*.

- a. Physical abuse
- b. Sexual abuse
- c. Alcohol abuse
- d. Emotional abuse
- e. Nutritional abuse
- f. Neglect

2. Emotional abuse can be defined as: (circle one)

- a. Any behavior which physically harms a child
- b. Excessive verbal assaults on a continuous basis, ignoring and/or harming the psychological capacity of a child
- c. Any sexual activity between a child and an adult
- d. Any behavior which results in the child being neglected

3. What are two indicators of emotional abuse? _____

4. Physical abuse can be defined as: (circle one)

- a. Any sexual activity between a child and an adult
- b. Any behavior which emotionally harms a child
- c. Any behavior which causes injury to a child and is nonaccidental
- d. Any behavior which results in the child being neglected.

5. What are two indicators of physical abuse? _____

6. Sexual abuse can be defined as: (circle one)

- a. Any behavior which physically harms a child
- b. Any behavior which emotionally harms a child
- c. Any sexual activity between a child under age 16 and another person, usually involving coercion
- d. Any behavior which results in the child being neglected

7. What are two indicators of sexual abuse? _____

(Continue on next page)

8. Neglect can be defined as: (circle one)

- a. Lack of attention by the primary caregiver to the child's welfare
- b. Any behavior which physically harms a child
- c. Any behavior which emotionally harms a child
- d. Any behavior which supports the child

9. What are two indicators of neglect? _____

10. Which of the following are characteristics of people more likely to abuse or neglect children?
(circle all that apply)

- a. Little child development knowledge
- b. Abuse alcohol or other substances
- c. Older parents
- d. A lot of conflict between parents
- e. Have children who are very demanding
- f. Take care of themselves

11. True or False Children are most often sexually abused by strangers.

12. True or False Abuse is more likely to occur in families that use more physical punishment than positive guidance.

13. True or False Physical abuse is the type of child maltreatment most often occurring in Nevada.



ANSWERS TO REVIEW QUIZ #1

Child Abuse and Neglect: An Overview

1. The four types of child maltreatment are:

Physical abuse

Emotional abuse

Sexual abuse

Neglect

2. Emotional abuse can be defined as:

b. Excessive verbal assaults on a continuous basis, ignoring and/or harming the psychological capacity of a child. See page 14 for more information.

3. What are two indicators of emotional abuse?

See page 14 for a list of behavioral and physical indicators.

4. Physical abuse can be defined as:

c. Any behavior which causes injury to a child and is non-accidental. See page 13 for more information.

5. What are two indicators of physical abuse?

See page 13 for a list of behavioral and physical indicators.

6. Sexual abuse of a child can be defined as:

c. Any sexual activity between a child under age 16 and another person usually involving coercion. See page 15 for a detailed definition.

7. What are two indicators of sexual abuse?

See page 15 for a list of behavioral and physical indicators.

8. Neglect can be defined as:

a. Lack of attention by the primary caregiver to the child's welfare. See page 16 for a definition.

9. What are two indicators of neglect?

See page 16 for a list of behavioral and physical indicators.

10. The following are characteristics of people more likely to abuse or neglect children

- a. *Little child development knowledge*
- b. *Abuse alcohol or other substances*
- d. *A lot of conflict between parents*
- e. *Have children who are very demanding*

The following two characteristics DO NOT indicate an increased risk for child maltreatment:

- c. *There is no evidence that an older parent is more likely to abuse or neglect a child.*
- f. *Parents who take care of themselves, such as getting enough sleep and asking friends to help out, are less likely to abuse or neglect their children.*

11. True or False Children are most often sexually abused by strangers.

This statement is false. The correct statement would be: Children are most often sexually abused by people they know. Sexual assault by strangers does occur, but most often children are sexually abused by someone they know.

12. True or False Abuse is more likely to occur in families that use more physical punishment than positive guidance.

This statement is true.

13. True or False Physical abuse is the type of child maltreatment most often occurring in Nevada.

This statement is false. There are more incidents of neglect than any other type of maltreatment. Physical abuse is second in frequency.

Lesson 2: Noticing Possible Signs of Child Maltreatment
And
Responding to a Disclosure

In Lesson 1, you learned about the incidence of child maltreatment as well as some physical and behavioral indicators of physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. In Lesson 2, you will have the opportunity to read about a particular situation, look for indicators of abuse or neglect and think about what the signs that you are noticing might mean. You also will learn what to do if a child begins to tell you — either very directly or somewhat indirectly — that she is being abused or neglected. Keep in mind that most children won't realize that what is happening to them is called child abuse or neglect; they may just be frightened or in pain. It is our responsibility to notice and report possible abuse and neglect and know how to respond to a child who approaches us for help.

Scenarios: Pick Two

Select two of the four scenarios below. For each of the two that you pick: 1) Identify what type of abuse or neglect you think might be occurring; 2) Write down the indicators that you see; and 3) Write down what you would do. After you have completed two scenarios, turn to the end of the chapter to see how your answers compare with the analysis of the scenarios. If your answers are very different from those provided at the end of the chapter, think about why that may be. Talk with your supervisor or one of the faculty members listed on page 53 if you have any questions or concerns.

Scenario 1: The Preschool Teacher Asks for Your Advice

You are providing food safety training to a group of preschool teachers. On the break, one of the teachers asks if he could talk to you. He says that he is worried about a 4-year-old in his classroom who never wants to eat anything. He also tells you that this little girl often has toilet accidents during the day and that all the other children call her a baby. She reacts by sucking her thumb and sitting in a corner or by hitting the other children. She is small for her age. The teacher doesn't know how to get her to eat and is worried about these other behaviors as well and hopes that you will have some suggestions for him.

1) What type of abuse/neglect might this be? _____

2) List the indicators or symptoms that you see:

3) What would you do?

Scenario 2: 4-H Member Shows Photos at Meeting

You are a 4-H leader and you notice that one of the children in your group has brought photos to the meeting and is showing them to the other children. You look over her shoulder and are surprised to see that, in the photos, she is posing in a skimpy bikini and in one photo, she has taken off her top even though her back is to the camera. You ask if she took the pictures while on vacation and she says, "Oh no, my uncle took the pictures while I was at his house. He calls me his little sweetie and says that I will grow up to be a model. He's helping me practice. He takes my picture all the time!"

1) What type of abuse/neglect might this be? _____

2) List the indicators or symptoms that you see:

3) What would you do?

Scenario 3: The Challenging Child in Your After School Program

Jan is in your after-school program and can be pretty challenging. He often gets frustrated when trying to do his homework and seems to be asking for help all the time. Even though he is thin, he often begs for more snack and sometimes sneaks it when you aren't looking. He has shown up today wearing shorts and a short-sleeved T-shirt even though snow is predicted. You ask him why he didn't wear warmer clothes, and he says that his dad was asleep this morning, and his mom was gone. He couldn't find the rest of his clothes that his dad took to the laundromat. As usual, it is time to go home, and whoever is supposed to pick Jan up is late.

1) What type of abuse/neglect might this be? _____

2) List the indicators or symptoms that you see:

3) What would you do?

Scenario 4: The Kid Having Trouble with the Obstacle Course

You are developing an obstacle course for preteens and have invited a group to try it out. When it's time to cross a make-believe stream by hanging from a bar, one of the boys winces and drops from the bar. You ask if he hurt himself and he replies, "No, I pinched my fingers in a door last night, and it still hurts." You ask to see and notice that it looks like he has burn marks on his fingers. When you ask if he burned his hand as well, he says, "Well, no, my dad got a little careless with a cigarette. I think he drank too much beer."

1) What type of abuse/neglect might this be? _____

2) List the indicators or symptoms that you see:

3) What would you do?

Disclosure: Sometimes a child will tell you

Once in awhile, children will tell a teacher or other adult that someone has hurt them. They may reveal that they are afraid of an adult or afraid to go home. They may say that they are left alone or that there is no food at home. How you respond when a child discloses possible maltreatment is very important. Many children find it very difficult to tell someone about abuse or neglect that is occurring to them. Often children will wait a long time before disclosing. Children may not realize that they are being treated differently than other kids. Frequently, children love and want to be loved by the person who is treating them inappropriately. Additionally, they may start to tell someone and, if the person reacts with disgust or doesn't believe them, they will stop disclosing the events and won't confide in anyone until they feel brave enough or until some major event happens. Because of this, it is important to respond in a calm, supportive and appropriate manner.

Suggestions regarding responding to a disclosure of possible abuse include:

- Be on the same eye level as the child; be tactful and have no physical barriers between you and the child.
- Assess the child's safety needs and the urgency of the situation.
- Don't interrogate or interview the child.
- Listen to the child.
- Don't comment on the child's situation as being bad or good; let the child tell her own story; leave out your own assumptions and value judgments.
- Be calm and in control of your responses and emotions.
- Find out what the child wants from you.
- Validate the child's feelings.
- Believe the child and be supportive.
- Assure the child that you care, you are still her friend, and she is not to blame.
- Don't react with disgust.
- Let the child know what you will do. Do not make promises you cannot keep.
- Tell the child you're glad she told you.
- Tell the child you will try to get him some help.
- Tell the child you will have to tell someone whose job it is to help kids with these kinds of situations.
- Do not talk about the disclosure to other children or adults other than to report suspicions.

Remember, it is important to build trust. Do not talk about the disclosure to other children or adults, except when you are reporting to the authorities. Tell the child that you will be reporting this to someone who will try to help. Telling the child this will help build a sense of trust, and she will not be surprised when she finds out that you told someone. The effects of child abuse or

neglect can last a lifetime and affect all parts of a person's life. As soon as possible after a disclosure, when you are not with the child, write down what the child said. This will help you remember details that may be easily forgotten.

Again, remember we are not expecting you to be an investigator. Your job is to report any suspicions of child abuse and neglect that you may have. Check your agency's policy regarding informing supervisors about suspected child maltreatment. If you suspect child abuse or neglect you must report your suspicions to the appropriate agency. Telling your supervisor does not fulfill that requirement.

Compare Your Answers on the Scenarios

At the beginning of this lesson you selected two of four scenarios. Find the two scenarios that you chose below and compare your answers to those given. It is not easy to report suspected child abuse and neglect. Learning what to look for and providing information can help the investigator determine what the problem is and how to help the child and family. When reporting, you do not have to indicate what type of abuse you think may be occurring. You can simply say that you are concerned and report, as accurately as possible, what you have seen, how the child has behaved, and any comments the child has made that may indicate a problem with child maltreatment.

Scenario 1: The Preschool Teacher Asks for Your Advice

You are providing food safety training to a group of preschool teachers. On the break, one of them asks if he could talk to you. He says that he is worried about a four year old in his classroom who never wants to eat anything. He also tells you that this little girl often has toilet accidents during the day and that all the other children call her a baby. She reacts by sucking her thumb and sitting in a corner or by hitting the other children. She is small for her age. The teacher doesn't know how to get her to eat and is worried about these other behaviors as well and hopes that you will have some suggestions for him.

1) What type of abuse/neglect might this be? *Emotional Abuse*

2) List the indicators or symptoms that you see:

___ *Poor appetite*

___ *Daytime toilet accidents*

___ *Sucking her thumb*

___ *Problems with peers*

___ *Poor social skills*

___ *Delays in physical development*

3) What would you do?

Besides emotional abuse, there could be other reasons for the problems that you are observing. This little girl could have special needs; there might be major changes at home that are related to these behaviors. You could talk with the preschool teacher to see if the teacher had talked with the parents about this little girl or knows of any others reasons for these behaviors. However, it sounds as though the teacher also is concerned about the child. Because you have been told about this child, you have a responsibility to report. The preschool teacher is also a mandated reporter. In this situation, you and the preschool teacher might be able to report together what the teacher has seen along with your concerns about this little girl. However, you have a responsibility to report even if the preschool teacher does not do so.

Scenario 2: 4-H Member Shows Photos at Meeting

You are a 4-H leader and you notice that one of the children in your group has brought photos to the meeting and is showing them to the other children. You look over her shoulder and are surprised to see that, in the photos, she is posing in a skimpy bikini and in one photo, she has taken off her top even though her back is to the camera. You ask if she took the pictures while on vacation and she says, "Oh no, my uncle took the pictures while I was at his house. He calls me his little sweetie and says that I will grow up to be a model. He's helping me practice. He takes my picture all the time!"

1) What type of abuse/neglect might this be? *Sexual abuse*

2) List the indicators or symptoms that you see:

Inappropriate photos *Exploitation by the uncle*
 Coercion

3) What would you do?

You should report what you have seen and heard along with your concerns.

Scenario 3: The Challenging Child in Your After School Program

Jan is in your after-school program and can be pretty challenging. He often gets frustrated when trying to do his homework and seems to be asking for help all the time. Even though he is thin, he often begs for more snacks and sometimes sneaks it when you aren't looking. He has shown up today wearing shorts and a short-sleeved t-shirt even though snow is predicted. You ask him why he didn't wear warmer clothes, and he says that his dad was asleep this morning, and his mom was gone. He couldn't find the rest of his clothes that his dad took to the laundromat. As usual, it is time to go home, and whoever is supposed to pick Jan up is late.

1) What type of abuse/neglect might this be? *Neglect*

2) List the indicators or symptoms that you see:

Easily frustrated *Asks for lots of help*
 Hungry, begs for food *Inappropriate dress*
 Lack of supervision

3) What would you do?

You should make a list of what you have observed, your concerns, and report possible neglect. This family may need help in obtaining adequate food and clothing, or in providing appropriate supervision and care for this child.

Scenario 4: The Kid Having Trouble with the Obstacle Course

You are developing an obstacle course for preteens and have invited a group to try it out. When it's time to cross a make believe stream by hanging from a bar, one of the boys winces and drops from the bar. You ask if he hurt himself and he replies, "No, I pinched my fingers in a door last night, and it still hurts." You ask to see and notice that it looks like he has burn marks on his fingers. When you ask if he burned his hand as well, he says, "Well, no, my dad got a little careless with a cigarette. I think he drank too much beer."

1) What type of abuse/neglect might this be? *Physical Abuse*

2) List the indicators or symptoms that you see:

___ *Injuries including burns* ___ *Child reports injury*

3) What would you do? *You need to write down what happened and what this boy said, and report it. Even if the adult did not intend to injure this child, the boy does seem to have sustained burns. It is possible that the child is being neglected as well as physically abused.*

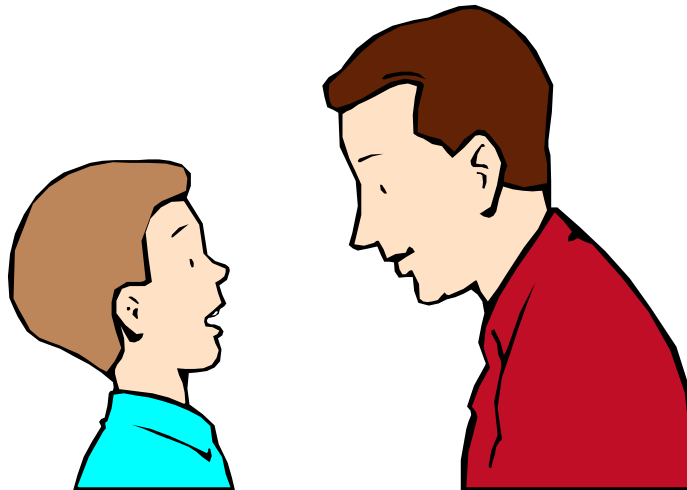
QUIZ TIME: Complete REVIEW QUIZ #2 now. After completing the quiz, check your answers on the page following the quiz. Review the information in the guide if necessary and note any questions for your supervisor.

REVIEW QUIZ #2

Responding to a Disclosure

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. The list below contains several statements that may or may not assist an adult in building a sense of trust with a child who has made a disclosure. Please circle all that will help the child who is telling you about maltreatment.
 - a. Do not interrogate or interview the child.
 - b. Tell the child the person who hurt them is bad and disgusting.
 - c. Validate the child's feelings.
 - d. Let your emotions show.
 - e. Tell the child that you will have to tell someone whose job it is to help kids with these kinds of problems.
 - f. Don't believe anything the child tells you.
 - g. Find out what the child wants from you.
2. True or False When talking with a child about being abused you should be as calm and relaxed as possible and sit without any barriers between you and the child.
3. True or False You should tell the child you will try to get him some help.
4. True or False You should tell the child that you will take care of everything.
5. True or False You should be certain that the child was abused before you report.
6. True or False You should tell the child that you care about her and you are glad she talked with you.



ANSWERS TO REVIEW QUIZ #2

Responding to a Disclosure

1. The following responses to a child's disclosure of maltreatment can help build a sense of trust and support the child.
 - a. *Do not interrogate or interview the child.*
 - c. *Validate the child's feelings.*
 - e. *Tell the child that you will have to tell someone whose job it is to help kids with these kinds of problems.*
 - g. *Find out what the child wants from you.*

2. True or False When talking with a child about being abused you should be as calm and relaxed as possible and sit without any barriers between you and the child.

This statement is true.

3. True or False You should tell the child you will try to get him some help.

This statement is true.

4. True or False You should tell the child that you will take care of everything.

This statement is false. The correct statement would be: Tell the child that you will try to get her some help and that you are going to talk with someone who helps children with problems like this. Only commit to what you can do.

5. True or False You should be certain that the child was abused before you report.

This statement is false. The correct statement would be: You must report suspicions of child maltreatment. It is not your job to investigate.

6. True or False You should tell the child that you care about her and you are glad she talked with you.

This statement is true.

Lesson 3: Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

Legal Considerations

There are certain legal considerations regarding reporting suspected child abuse and/or neglect.

Nevada Revised Statute 432B.220 requires that any person who is employed by or volunteers for any agency that provides care for children (for example, at camp, club meetings, etc.) must report any suspected child abuse or neglect within 24 hours of becoming aware of such a concern. You may be charged with a misdemeanor if it is discovered that you had reason to believe that a child was being abused or neglected and you did not make a report.

In Washoe County, if you work for a child care facility, regulations require you to report suspicions of child maltreatment within one hour.

Persons making a report of suspected child abuse or neglect can't be prosecuted or sued if the report is made without malicious intent. According to Nevada law, the person and agency receiving the report must maintain the anonymity of the person making the report.

Do not investigate; to do so may jeopardize the child's safety as well as any legal action pending as a result of the abuse (Nelson and Clark, 1986). Reporting can and does help many children and their families. The initial process may be painful, but it can be productive. Generally, the child likes and/or loves the person who is abusing her; she just wants the abusive behavior to stop. And most parents love their children and want to be good parents, but some may need help and support to be good parents.

Who Must Report

Any person can make a report. Any mandated reporter who suspects that a child is suffering from any type of maltreatment is legally required to report that suspicion to appropriate authorities. There are numerous types of mandatory reporters, including “any adult person who is employed by an entity that provides organized activities for children.”(NRS 432.B121 (1) (K)) Nevada Revised Statute 432B.220 requires that “*reports must be made by the following persons who, in their professional or occupational capacities, know or have reason to believe that a child has been abused or neglected.*”

- a. *A physician, dentist, dental hygienist, chiropractor, optometrist, podiatric physician, medical examiner, resident intern, professional or practical nurse, physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 630 or 633 of NRS, psychiatrist, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, clinical professional therapist, clinical alcohol and drug abuse counselor, alcohol and drug abuse counselor, clinical social worker, athletic trainer, advanced emergency medical technician or other person providing medical services licensed or certified in this state;*
- b. *Any personnel of a hospital or similar institution engaged in the admission, examination, care or treatment of persons or an administrator, manager or other person in charge of a hospital or similar institution upon notification of suspected abuse or neglect of a child by a member of the staff of the hospital;*
- c. *A coroner;*
- d. *A clergyman, practitioner of Christian Science or religious healer, unless he has acquired the knowledge of the abuse or neglect from the offender during a confession;*
- e. *A social worker and an administrator, teacher, librarian or counselor of a school;*
- f. *Any person who maintains or is employed by a facility or establishment that provides care for children, children’s camp or other public or private facility, institution or agency furnishing care to a child;*
- g. *Any person licensed to conduct a foster home;*
- h. *Any officer or employee of a law enforcement agency or an adult or juvenile probation officer;*
- i. *An attorney, unless he has acquired the knowledge of the abuse or neglect from a client who is or may be accused of the abuse or neglect; and*
- j. *Any person who maintains, is employed by or serves as a volunteer for an agency or service which advises persons regarding abuse or neglect of a child and refers them to persons and agencies where their requests and needs can be met.*
- k. *Any person who is employed by or serves as a volunteer for an approved youth shelter. As used in this paragraph, “approved youth shelter” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 244.422.*
- l. *Any adult person who is employed by an entity that provides organized activities for children.”*

NOTE:

- Anyone required to report under this section who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has died as a result of abuse or neglect shall report this belief to the appropriate medical examiner or coroner.
- Anyone required to make a report who knowingly and willfully violates the provisions of NRS432B.220 is guilty of a misdemeanor. Persons required to report may not invoke any of the privileges granted under Chapter 49 of NRS relating to patient or client confidentiality.

What to Report

According to NRS432B.230, a child abuse or neglect report may be made verbally by telephone or otherwise. The report should contain the following information if possible:

- a. The name, address, age and sex of the child;
- b. The name and address of the child's parents or other person responsible for his care;
- c. The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect of the child;
- d. Any evidence of previously known or suspected abuse or neglect of the child or the child's siblings;
- e. The name, address and relationship, if known, of the person who is alleged to have abused or neglected the child; and
- f. Any other information known to the person making the report that the agency which provides protective services considers necessary.

Don't fail to make a report even if you don't have all of the information.

Reporting Practice

Take a few minutes to practice reporting a suspicion of child maltreatment. Using the scenarios in Lesson 2, select one or two of the scenarios and complete the following form as if you were making a report. Practicing this will make it a bit easier if you need to make a report at some time. You'll want to think about how you tell the caseworker about your concerns and the report can help you with that process. If you use a form such as the following form for an actual report of concern, be sure that you either keep it in a confidential location or shred it.

Suggested Information Form
Information that will be helpful in making a report of suspected child maltreatment

Date of report _____ Time of report _____

Your name _____ Name of program _____

How you know child: _____

Program Phone _____

Child's name _____ Age ____ Gender __ M __ F

Child's home address _____

Phone _____ School _____ Grade _____

Name of parent or guardian _____ Phone _____

Address (if different than child's) _____

Parent's workplace _____ Work Phone _____

Name of suspected abuser _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Relationship to child _____

Type of suspected abuse __ Physical __ Emotional __ Neglect __ Sexual

Notes (Why do you believe there is a reason to suspect child abuse or neglect has occurred? List facts, such as what was seen or heard, when, where, etc.)

Agency that suspected abuse was reported to _____

Name of person taking report _____



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**Where
Report**

to

According to NRS 432B.220, persons are required by law to report within 24 hours to the local office of the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services, to the county agency authorized by the juvenile court to receive such reports, or to any police department or sheriff's office when there is reason to believe that a child under 18 years of age has been abused or neglected.



If you need to make a report of suspected child maltreatment, you can call the Nevada Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-992-5757 or you can call the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services District Office in your county.

County	Phone Number
Carson City	(775) 684-1930
Churchill	(775) 423-8566
Clark	(702) 399-0081
Douglas	(775) 687-1930
Elko	(775) 753-1300
Esmeralda	(775) 423-8566
Eureka	(775) 289-1640
Humboldt	(775) 623-6555
Lander	(775) 623-6555
Lincoln	(775) 289-1640
Lyon	(775) 423-8566
Mineral	(775) 423-8566
Nye - Tonopah	(775) 482-6626
Nye - Pahrump	(775) 727-8497
Pershing	(775) 423-8566
Storey	(775) 687-1930
Washoe	(775) 785-8600
White Pine	(775) 289-1640

The legal responsibility of the professional or volunteer is to report. The person making the report is usually not informed of results of an investigation. Should the person making the report feel the situation has not been investigated and is not able to remedy the situation with the local agency, contact can be made with:

Systems Advocate Unit
775-684-4453

Some Tips About Reporting:

- Think clearly and objectively about making a report.
- Try to keep emotion out of it and give factual information about what you have observed or heard - doing this will help you clarify in your mind why you are reporting and that your goal is to help the child be safe as well as to be safe yourself.
- Do not tell anyone about the report or show it to anyone other than a supervisor when required.

As we stated earlier, it is illegal for child protective services to reveal the name of a person reporting child abuse or neglect. However, it is not too difficult sometimes to figure out who reported. Many families that are involved in abusive behavior are isolated, and there are a minimal number of people with whom their children have contact. It is sometimes easy to guess who might have reported. This can happen and may cause some stressful situations. If a parent thinks you made a report and becomes angry with you:

- it is helpful not to become defensive or angry with the parent;
- simply state that you are a mandated reporter by law; and
- tell the parent that if his/her family is having difficulty, you hope they can get the services they need.

A very small percentage of cases become criminal cases with a trial. In these cases there is a possibility that witnesses may be called, including the person who reported suspicions. In these rare cases, you may be called to testify.

Child abuse and neglect can result in loss of life or permanent and serious damage to physical, emotional and mental development of the child. You may suspect that a child is being abused, but may not want to get directly involved. You can help by reporting the suspected case to proper authorities who have the responsibility to guard the child's immediate physical safety, determine if abuse or neglect is present, stop abuse and neglect, offer appropriate treatment and strengthen the family whenever possible.

Dealing with Feelings About Reporting

Take care of yourself. Recognizing and responding to an incident of abuse is stressful. Realizing that a child may have been abused can be challenging, difficult and painful. If you want or need support, seek it out.

Reporting suspected child abuse or neglect can be confusing and traumatic. Keep in mind the objectives and purpose of reporting: that is, to help the child and her family. If it will help, you may want to have an Extension staff person or someone from your agency sit with you for moral support when you call. After making a report, keep in mind that your program can still be a source of support for the child and family.

To remain anonymous or not?

When you call to report a suspicion of child maltreatment you do not have to give your name; you can make an anonymous report. However, you may want to give your name for a couple of reasons. First, if you are a mandatory reporter, giving your name will provide a record of your report. Second, if you give your name and contact information, child protective services will be able to contact you to get further information to help in their investigation. They may also contact you regarding the status of the case.

QUIZ TIME: Complete REVIEW QUIZ #3 now. After completing the quiz, check your answers on the page following the quiz. Review the information in the guide if necessary and note any questions for your supervisor.



REVIEW QUIZ #3

Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Any suspected child maltreatment must be reported within: (circle one)
 - a. One week
 - b. 72 hours
 - c. 48 hours
 - d. 24 hours

2. Persons can be held criminally liable for reporting suspected child maltreatment only if they are: (circle one)
 - a. Making a report that cannot be substantiated
 - b. Making a report about something that happened more than five years ago
 - c. Making a report without malicious intent
 - d. Making a false report that is intended to harm someone

3. The list below contains several statements of the information you should provide if applicable and/or possible to authorities when making a report of suspected child abuse. (Please circle all those that apply).
 - a. The name, age, address and sex of the child
 - b. The grade that the child is in school
 - c. Your name and address
 - d. The nature and extent of the suspected abuse or neglect of the child
 - e. As much information as possible about the suspected abuser
 - f. The name and address of the child's parents
 - g. The school that the child attends

4. The primary purpose of reporting suspected child maltreatment is: (circle one)
 - a. To legally protect yourself
 - b. To help the child and her family
 - c. To get perpetrators of child abuse off the streets
 - d. To protect Cooperative Extension

ANSWERS TO REVIEW QUIZ #3

Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

1. Any suspected child maltreatment must be reported within:

24 hours

2. Persons can be held criminally liable for reporting suspected child maltreatment only if they are:

d. Making a false report that is intended to harm someone

3. When making a report of suspected child maltreatment:

You should provide as much pertinent information as possible. All listed statements could be circled (See page 35 for more details.)

4. The primary purpose of reporting suspected child maltreatment is:

To help the child and her family

Lesson 4: Guidelines for Appropriate Interactions with Children

What can you do to keep everyone safe?

Working with children is a rewarding and challenging job. In the past few years it has become even more challenging as reports of alleged child abuse and neglect have risen. Statistics show that the majority of abusers are parents, although the public perception is that abuse in child care settings or by strangers is common. This false perception creates a very real challenge for child care providers and youth leaders. People who work with children have become increasingly concerned about false allegations and about providing a safe environment for themselves and the children in their care.

General Guidelines

There are some things that caregivers and youth leaders can do to help prevent child abuse and protect themselves from false allegations.

Program Guidelines. You should:

- Invite parents to join in activities whenever they can.
- Check references before hiring a volunteer or staff person. Check for any past concerns regarding guidance techniques or child abuse and neglect.
- Require qualifications that include experience and education related to child development.
- Have policies that do not put staff at risk of being falsely accused or allow for possible abuse (such as being alone with one child).
- Provide and attend ongoing training for staff (parents, too, when possible) to learn current information about the care, development and guidance of children and child abuse issues.
- Maintain equipment in good order and proper repair.
- Design play and other areas so that children can be viewed at all times. Children sometimes assault other children.
- Help protect everyone. Have the children use the buddy system – they don't go anywhere without their "buddy."

Staff Guidelines. You should:

- Never hit or strike a child - even in so-called “play.”
- Do not use physical punishment of any kind.
- Avoid being alone with one child.
- It is advisable to always have at least two adults present. This prevents abuse and the potential for allegations. It also ensures children’s safety in the event of an injury or other emergency.
- Hugs are OK if they are appropriate and if both people are comfortable with them. Take clues from the body language of the child or simply ask “Is it okay for me to hug you?” Likewise, if you do not feel comfortable with a hug from a child, tell her in a gentle way and suggest an alternative, such as holding her hand or putting your hand on her shoulder or arm.
- Be aware of children’s personal boundaries and respect them. For example, some people like being close and getting or giving hugs, while others don’t like a lot of close contact with other people. The amount of space between people that is comfortable is different for everyone. Sometimes we forget that children have those preferences, too.

Special Consideration for Older Children and Youth

Those working with older youth may face some different challenges. For example, when taking young children on a field trip you would never think of them going to a restroom or somewhere else by themselves. With older children you might consider letting them go to a restroom or snack bar alone. However, it is best to use the buddy system for responsible older youth by having them stay with another youth at all times.

Additionally, as children get older they need to have some privacy. They may need a quiet area to read or write. Create quiet areas where children can be seen by staff. The exception to that is the bathroom. You may want to have a policy stating that only one child uses the bathroom at a time. If your program area bathroom is in another building, one staff person could take a small group of children. Learning to take precautions is a good lesson for children. You can help them learn to plan ahead and think about their safety. Talk with staff and the youth in your program about safety. Have them help identify safety hazards and suggest solutions.

One of the goals of this training is to provide a safe, healthy environment for all children and adults involved in Cooperative Extension programs. False reports happen rarely; however, adults

working with children should keep their own safety as well as children's safety in mind. Next, we will discuss some tips to help protect you and the children.

Interacting With Children

There is nothing magical or mysterious about interacting with children; the best thing to do is use common sense. Responsible adults automatically limit their physical exchanges with children, showing respect for children and at the same time maintaining warm, healthy, affectionate relationships (Nelson and Clark, 1986).

QUIZ TIME: Complete REVIEW QUIZ #4 now. After completing the quiz, check your answers on the page following the quiz. Review the information in the guide if necessary and note any questions for your supervisor.



REVIEW QUIZ #4

Guidelines for Appropriate Interactions with Children

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. List four ways that you can reduce your risks related to false accusations of child maltreatment when working with children.

a) _____

b). _____

c). _____

d). _____

2. List four ways that you can reduce a child's risk related to child maltreatment.

a). _____

b). _____

c). _____

d). _____

ANSWERS TO REVIEW QUIZ #4

Guidelines for Appropriate Interactions with Children

1. List four ways that you can reduce your risks related to false accusations of child maltreatment when working with children.

The risk of an adult being falsely accused can be reduced by doing the following:

- 1). *not being alone with one child*
- 2). *having two adults with the group*
- 3). *never hitting a child, even in play*
- 4). *never using physical punishment of any kind*

2. List four ways that you can reduce a child's risks related to child maltreatment.

Adults can reduce children's risk of being maltreated by:

- 1). *Encouraging parent participation*
- 2). *Checking references of volunteers*
- 3). *Using the buddy system for outings, for example: everyone stays with a buddy or partner*
- 4). *Allowing only one child in the bathroom at a time*



Lesson 5: Cooperative Extension Child Abuse and Neglect Training Requirement and Reporting Protocol

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) Policy. UNCE wants to create an environment for its educational programming that is safe for adults and youth. Staff and volunteers working with youth are mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect. In order to fulfill that requirement we must know what constitutes child abuse and neglect, as well as how and where to report. Additionally, staff and volunteers must be aware of the legal considerations and how they can obtain support in their role as a mandatory reporter. Thus, the policy of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension is:

“Any child who participates in educational programs conducted under the auspices of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) is entitled to a safe environment. In addition, employees are entitled to information related to the laws pertaining to child abuse and neglect and sexual offenses. All employees will receive training in order to take steps to ensure that neither they nor children are in situations which place them at risk under various Nevada Statutes related to child and sexual abuse.” August 1998

Child abuse and neglect prevention training requirement. As a reminder, the child abuse and neglect prevention training requirement of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension is:

1. All Cooperative Extension paid staff must complete Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition and Reporting Training within 30 days of hire. In addition, trained Cooperative Extension volunteers who work as unpaid staff in programs which involve youth must complete Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition and Reporting Training within 30 days of beginning volunteer assignments. Individuals cannot work with youth until this requirement is met.
2. It is the responsibility of the immediate supervisor to inform new staff or volunteers of the training requirement and to ensure that each person receives the self-study guide or attends a training session.
3. Supervisors should keep documentation that staff and volunteers have completed the training, including a copy of the completed checklist. Additionally, the supervisor is responsible for submitting a copy of the completed checklist to the statewide administrative office for inclusion in a state master list of trained individuals.

Protocol in cases of suspected child abuse or neglect.

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension protocol for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect is:

1. In any case of suspected child abuse or neglect, all Extension personnel, including volunteers, must comply with the law. The law states that “where there is reason to believe that a child has been abused or neglected, a report must be made.” If you become aware that abuse may have occurred in the past, even many years ago, you must report.
2. Reports of suspected child abuse and neglect must be made within 24 hours of gaining knowledge of such information.
3. Reports must be made directly to the appropriate local agency (the local Nevada State Division of Child and Family Services office or the local law enforcement office where the alleged abuse occurred) by the person who has reason to believe or suspect that abuse or neglect has occurred.
4. Your supervisor should be notified that a report has been filed. Your supervisor is responsible for notifying the Extension Educator, Area Director and the Dean and Director of the action, without revealing the details of the report.

Effective as of Aug. 18, 1998

Why do we take fingerprints?

Chapter 179a of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) allows employers to conduct fingerprint checks of **employees having access to children or information maintained on the children.**

Adult volunteers 18 and over are considered employees for the purposes of this policy.

Fingerprinting is a screening process to identify those who have a recorded history of child abuse or neglect crimes. Fingerprinting is a way to help create a safe environment for our youth and adults.

Support from Cooperative Extension:

You can talk with one of the identified Extension faculty regarding your concerns. This can be accomplished without using names of the family/child that you are concerned about. The faculty member can act as a sounding board for you and help support you in the process.

Any faculty with youth appointments may be contacted for support or questions regarding child maltreatment. Here are some specific faculty you may call.

Bill Evans, State Extension Specialist, in Reno, at (775) 784-7013.

Jackie Reilly, Youth Development Specialist in Reno at (775) 784-4848.

Marilyn Smith, Area Youth Development Specialist in Elko at (775) 738-1990.

Eric Killian, Area Specialist in Las Vegas at (702) 222-3130.

Nora Luna, Area Specialist in Las Vegas at (702) 222-3130

Walter Barker, Area Specialist in Las Vegas at (702) 222-3130

Teresa Byington, Area Specialist in Las Vegas at (702) 222-3130

Your Extension office is here to support you. Remember though, that you must make a report if you have reason to suspect that child maltreatment is occurring. Talking to an Extension staff person does not relieve you of the responsibility to report.

In summary, it is important to remember that our primary goal with this training is to look out for the best interests of the child and the safety of staff. In keeping with this goal, it is important to remember to respect confidentiality and talk about situations in the appropriate manner and locations. This may require some persistence and patience. While we do have a system to try and stop the cycle of abuse, it is far from perfect. We thank our volunteers and staff for their commitment to youth and to improving lives.

QUIZ TIME: Complete REVIEW QUIZ #5 now. After completing the quiz check your answers on the page following the quiz. Review the information in the guide if necessary and note any questions for your supervisor.

REVIEW QUIZ #5

Cooperative Extension policies and protocol

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Why does Cooperative Extension fingerprint all staff and volunteers who work with youth?

2. True or False If I tell the Extension Educator or my supervisor about suspected child abuse, I have fulfilled my responsibilities regarding reporting.

3. True or False I must make any report of suspected child abuse within 24 hours.

4. If I have questions about reporting suspected child abuse or neglect I can call the following person(s): _____



ANSWERS TO REVIEW QUIZ #5

Cooperative Extension policies and protocol

1. Why does Cooperative Extension fingerprint all staff and volunteers who work with youth?

To “screen out” people with a child abuse related criminal record.

2. True or False If I tell the Extension Educator or my supervisor about suspected child abuse, I have fulfilled my responsibilities regarding reporting.

This statement is false. The correct statement would be: You must report to the child abuse agency for your community. See page 38.

3. True or False I must make any report of suspected child abuse within 24 hours.

This statement is true.

4. If I have questions about reporting suspected child abuse or neglect I can call the following person(s):

Bill Evans, State Extension Specialist, in Reno, at (775) 784-7013.

Jackie Reilly, Youth Development Specialist in Reno at (775) 784-4848.

Marilyn Smith, Area Youth Development Specialist in Elko at (775) 738-1990.

Eric Killian, Area Specialist in Las Vegas at (702) 222-3130.

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Walter Barker, Area Specialist in Las Vegas at (702) 222-3130

Teresa Byington, Area Specialist in Las Vegas at (702) 222-3130

Or you may contact the reporting agency in your community. See page 38 in this guide.

Or in **rural Nevada** you may contact the Crisis Call Center 1-800-992-5757.

In **Clark County** call (702) 399-0081

In **Washoe County** call (775) 785-8600.

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