

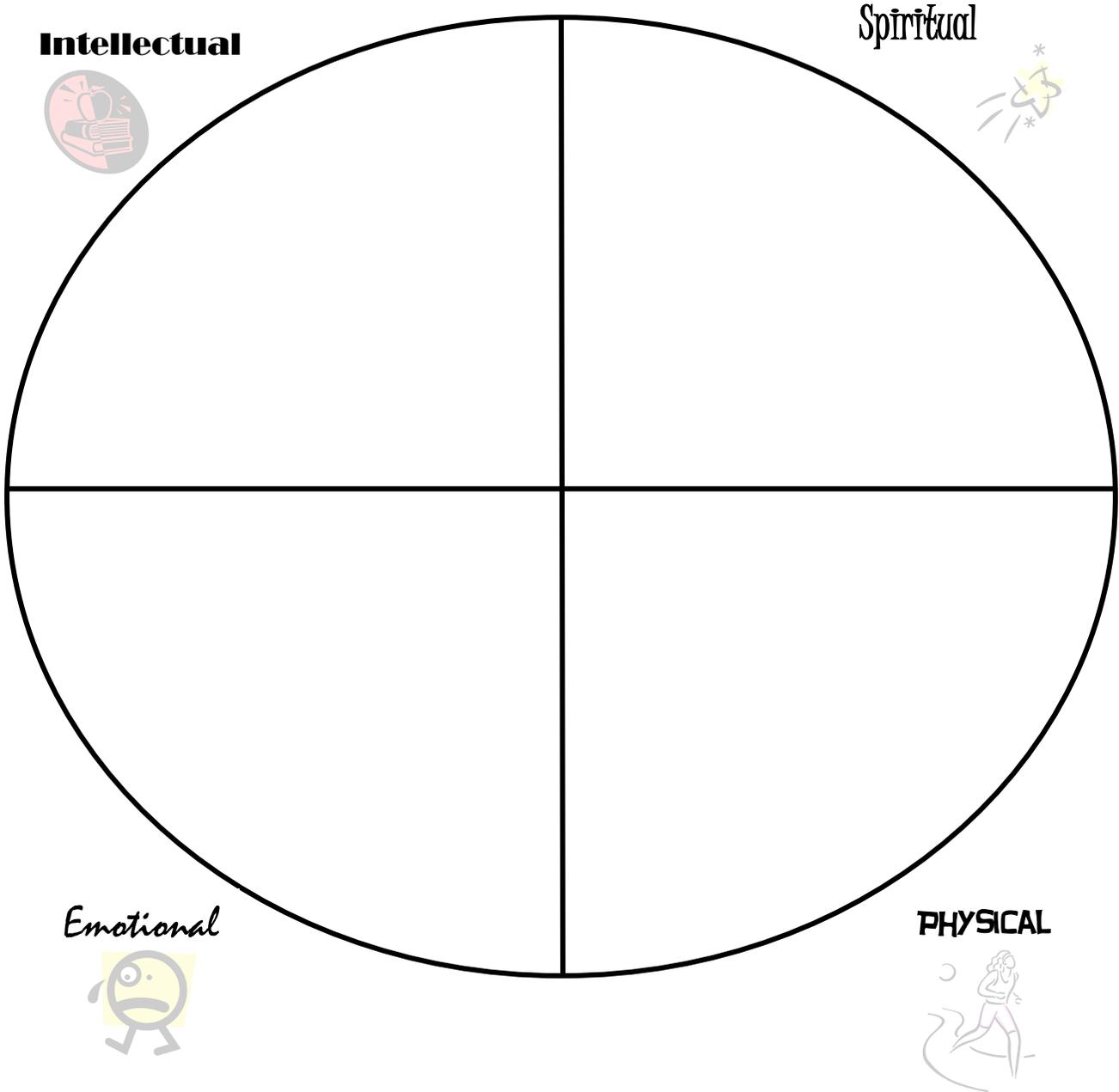
Section Two
UNDERSTANDING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

	Page
○ <i>Activity: Seeing the Whole Child</i>	1
○ Defining Child Abuse and Neglect	2
○ Arizona Statutes on the Definition of Child Abuse and Neglect	4
○ Conditions That May Lead to Abuse and Neglect	6
○ Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect	9
○ Prevalence of Child Abuse and Neglect	11
○ Recognizing Signs of Child Abuse and Neglect	13
○ Child Abuse and Neglect at a Glance	16
○ Reporting Abuse and Neglect	17
○ Review Questions	18
○ Resources	19



Activity: Seeing the Whole Child

In order to recognize child abuse or neglect, it's important to look at all aspects of a child's life and identify what makes for a happy, well-adjusted child. Below is a circle divided into four quadrants. These quadrants represent four aspects of a child's life: the intellectual, the spiritual, the physical, and the emotional. Write down your ideas of what makes for a happy child in each of these areas of life.



Defining Child Abuse and Neglect

FEDERAL LAW

Federal legislation provides a foundation for states by identifying a minimum set of acts or behaviors that define child abuse and neglect. The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, as amended by the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003, defines child abuse and neglect as, at minimum:

- Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or
- An act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.

This definition of child abuse and neglect refers specifically to parents and other caregivers. A “child” under this definition generally means a person who is under the age of 18 or who is not an emancipated minor.

STATE LAWS

While Federal legislation sets minimum standards, each state is responsible for providing its own definitions of child abuse and neglect. Most states recognize four major types of maltreatment: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse.

- ***Neglect*** is failure to provide for a child’s basic needs. Neglect may be:
 - Physical (e.g., failure to provide necessary food or shelter, or lack of appropriate supervision)
 - Medical (e.g., failure to provide necessary medical or mental health treatment)
 - Educational (e.g., failure to educate a child or attend to special education needs)
 - Emotional (e.g., inattention to a child’s emotional needs, failure to provide psychological care, or permitting the child to use alcohol or other drugs)

These situations do not always mean a child is neglected. Sometimes cultural values, standards of care in the community, or poverty may be contributing factors, indicating the family is in need of information or assistance. When a family fails to use information and resources, and the child’s health or safety is at risk, then child welfare intervention may be required.



Section Two

- ***Physical abuse*** is 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. Such injury is considered abuse regardless of whether the caretaker intended to hurt the child.
- ***Sexual abuse*** includes activities by a parent or caretaker 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*** 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. Emotional abuse is often difficult to prove and, therefore, child protective services may not be able to intervene without evidence of harm to the child. Emotional abuse is almost always present when other forms are identified.

Definitions of child abuse and neglect are typically located in three places within each state's statutory code:

- *Mandatory child maltreatment reporting statutes* (civil laws) provide definitions of child maltreatment to guide individuals who are mandated to identify and report suspected child abuse.
- *Criminal statutes* define those forms of child maltreatment that are criminally punishable.
- *Juvenile court jurisdiction statutes* provide definitions of the circumstances necessary for the court to have jurisdiction over a child alleged to have been abused or neglected. When the child's safety cannot be ensured in the home, these statutes allow the court to take custody of the child.

Source: Child Welfare Information Gateway

*Child abuse is an act of commission.
Child neglect is an act of omission.*



Arizona Statutes on the Definition of Child Abuse and Neglect

Physical Abuse

Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 8-201; 13-3623

Abuse means inflicting or allowing the infliction of physical injury, impairment of bodily function, or disfigurement.

The term *abuse* includes circumstances in which a child is permitted to enter or remain in any structure or vehicle in which volatile, toxic, or flammable chemicals are found or equipment is possessed by any person for the purpose of manufacturing a dangerous drug. A violation under this section does not require that a person have care or custody of the child.

Neglect

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-201

Neglect or neglected means the inability or unwillingness of a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child to provide that child with supervision, food, clothing, shelter, or medical care if that inability or unwillingness causes substantial risk of harm to the child's health or welfare.

Sexual Abuse

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-201

Abuse shall include:

- Inflicting or allowing sexual abuse
- Sexual conduct with a minor
- Sexual assault
- Molestation of a child
- Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor
- Sexual exploitation of a minor
- Incest
- Child prostitution

Emotional Abuse

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-201

Abuse means the infliction of or allowing another person to cause serious emotional damage to the child, as evidenced by severe anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or untoward aggressive behavior, and such emotional damage is diagnosed by a medical doctor or

Section Two

psychologist, and the damage has been caused by the acts or omissions of an individual having care, custody, and control of a child.

Abandonment

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-201

Abandoned means:

- The failure of the parent to provide reasonable support and to maintain regular contact with the child, including providing normal supervision
- That a parent has made only minimal efforts to support and communicate with the child

Failure to maintain a normal parental relationship with the child without just cause for a period of 6 months shall constitute *prima facie* evidence of abandonment.

Standards for Reporting

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-201

A report is required when a responsible person:

- Inflicts or allows another person to inflict injury on a child
- Is unable or unwilling to protect the child

Persons Responsible for the Child

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-201

Responsible persons include:

- The parent
- A person having care, custody, and control of a child

Exceptions

Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-201

A dependent child does not include a child who, in good faith, is being furnished Christian Science treatment by a duly accredited practitioner.

A child is not considered neglected if a parent's inability to meet the needs of the child is due solely to the unavailability of reasonable services.

If you want to learn about all of Arizona's statutes on child abuse and neglect, child welfare and adoption, you can visit http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/



Conditions That May Lead to Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse and neglect affect children of every age, race, and income level. However, research has identified many factors relating to the child, family, community, and society that are associated with an increased risk of child abuse and neglect. Studies have also shown that when multiple risk factors are present, the risk is greater.

Young mothers and fathers unprepared for the responsibilities of raising a child; overwhelmed single parents with little support; and families placed under stress by poverty, divorce, or a child's disability are all at greater risk. Some families are stressed by worries about employment, health, substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, or other problems, or are simply unaware of how to care for their children's basic needs.

These circumstances, combined with the inherent challenges of raising children, can result in otherwise well-intentioned parents causing their children harm or neglecting their needs.

CHILD-RELATED FACTORS

- Chronological age of child: 50% of abused children are younger than 3 years old; 90% of children who die from abuse are younger than 1 year old; firstborn children are most vulnerable.
- Mismatch between child's temperament or behavior and parent's temperament or expectations.
- Physical or mental disabilities.
- Attachment problems or separation from parent during critical periods or reduced positive interaction between parent and child.
- Premature birth or illness at birth can lead to financial stress, inability to bond, and parental feelings of guilt, failure, or inadequacy.
- Unwanted child or child who reminds parent of absent partner or spouse.

PARENT/CARETAKER-RELATED FACTORS

- Low self-esteem: Neglectful parents often neglect themselves and see themselves as worthless people.
- Abuse as a child: Parents may repeat their own childhood experience if no intervention occurred in their case and no new or adaptive skills were learned.
- Depression may be related to brain chemistry and/or a result of having major problems and limited emotional resources to deal with them. Abusive and neglectful parents are often seen and considered by themselves and others to be terribly depressed people.

Section Two

- Impulsiveness: Abusive parents often have a marked inability to channel anger or sexual feelings.
- Substance abuse: Drug and/or alcohol use serves as a temporary relief from insurmountable problems but, in fact, creates new and bigger problems.
- Character disorder or psychiatric illness.
- Ignorance of child development norms: A parent may have unrealistic expectations of a child, such as expecting a 4-year-old to wash his/her own clothes.
- Isolation: Abusive and neglectful families may tend to avoid community contact and have few family ties to provide support.
- Distance from, or disintegration of, an extended family that traditionally played a significant role in child rearing may increase isolation.
- Sense of entitlement: Some people believe that it's acceptable to use violence to ensure a child's or partner's compliance.
- Mental retardation or borderline mental functioning.

SOCIAL-SITUATIONAL FACTORS

- Structural/economic factors: The stress of poverty, unemployment, restricted mobility, and poor housing can be instrumental in a parent's ability to adequately care for a child. The child needs to be protected from separation from his/her family solely because of stressed economic conditions. Middle- and upper income parents may experience job or financial stress as well—abuse is not limited to families in poverty.
- Values and norms concerning violence and force, including domestic violence; acceptability of corporal punishment and of family violence.
- Devaluation of children and other dependents.
- Overdrawn values of honor, with intolerance of perceived disrespect.
- Unacceptable child-rearing practices (e.g., genital mutilation of female children, father sexually initiating female children).
- Cruelty in child-rearing practices (e.g., putting hot peppers in child's mouth, depriving child of water, confining child to room for days, or taping mouth with duct tape for "back talk").
- Institutional manifestations of inequalities and prejudice in law, healthcare, education, the welfare system, sports, entertainment, etc.

FAMILY FACTORS

- Domestic violence: Children may be injured while trying to intervene to protect a battered parent or while in the arms or proximity of a parent being assaulted. Domestic violence can indicate one parent's inability to protect the child from another's abuse because the parent is also being abused.



Section Two

- Stepparent, or blended, families are at greater risk: There is some indication that adult partners who are not the parents of the child are more likely to maltreat. Changes in family structure can also create stress in the family.
- Single parents are highly represented in abuse and neglect cases: Economic status is typically lower in single-parent families, and the single parent is at a disadvantage in trying to perform the functions of two parents.
- Adolescent parents are at high risk because their own developmental growth has been disrupted: They may be ill-prepared to respond to the needs of the child because their own needs have not been met.
- Punishment-centered child-rearing styles have greater risk of promoting abuse.
- Scapegoating of a particular child will tend to give the family permission to see that child as the “bad” one.
- Adoptions: Children adopted late in childhood, children who have special needs, children with a temperamental mismatch, or children not given a culturally responsible placement.

TRIGGERING SITUATIONS

Any of the factors above can contribute to a situation in which an abusive event occurs. There has been no systematic study of what happens to trigger abusive events. Some instances are acute, happen very quickly, and end suddenly. Other cases are of long duration. Examples of possible triggering situations include:

- A baby will not stop crying.
- A parent is frustrated with toilet training.
- An alcoholic is fired from a job.
- A mother, after being beaten by her partner, cannot make contact with her own family.
- A parent is served an eviction notice.
- A prescription drug used to control mental illness is stopped.
- Law enforcement is called to the home in a domestic violence situation, whether by the victim or a neighbor.
- A parent who was disrespected in the adult world later takes it out on the child.



Section Two

Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect

The impact of child maltreatment can be profound. Research shows that child maltreatment is associated with adverse health and mental health outcomes in children and families, and those negative effects can last a lifetime. The long-term effects can be physical, psychological, or behavioral. A history of child abuse or neglect has been associated with increased risk of:

- Mental illness.
- Substance abuse.
- Developmental disabilities and learning problems.
- Social problems with other children and with adults.
- Teen pregnancy.
- Lack of success in school.
- Alcohol and other drug use.
- Domestic violence.

In addition to the impact on the child and family, child abuse and neglect affect various systems—including medical and mental health, law enforcement, judicial, public social services, and nonprofit agencies—as they respond to the incident and support the victim. One analysis of the immediate and long-term economic impact of child abuse and neglect suggests that child maltreatment costs the nation as much as \$258 million each day, or approximately \$94 billion each year.

EFFECTS OF MALTREATMENT ON ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS

	<i>Adolescence</i>	<i>Adulthood</i>
Physical Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Withdrawal, apathy• Aggressive behavior• Anti-social behavior• Inability to relate to peers• Members of violence identified groups or gangs• Low self-esteem• Running away• Prostitution• Drug and alcohol abuse• Seeks out attention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inability to form long-lasting, meaningful, or satisfying relationships• Attracted to violent partners• Isolated, frequent relocations



Section Two

	<i>Adolescence</i>	<i>Adulthood</i>
Sexual Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexualized behavior • Promiscuity • Defiance • Isolated/fearful • Self mutilating • Suicidal gestures • Obsessively clean and neat • Pseudo-mature • Eating disorders • Drug and alcohol abuse • Prostitution • Running away • Delinquency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual difficulties • Distrust • Shame of body • Unable to assert, protect self • Repeats victim patterns • Drug and or alcohol abuse
Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal/apathy • Aggressiveness • Obesity or eating disorders • Inability to make and or keep friends • Drug and alcohol abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depression • Alcohol abuse • Isolated



Section Two

Prevalence of Child Abuse and Neglect

IN THE UNITED STATES...

- An estimated 906,000 children are victims of abuse and neglect every year. The rate of victimization is 12.3 children per 1,000 children.
- Children ages 0–3 are the most likely to experience abuse. They are victimized at a rate of 16.4 per 1,000.
- 1,500 children die every year from child abuse and neglect. That is just over four fatalities every day.
- 79% of the children killed are younger than four.
- 80% of young adults who had been abused met the diagnostic criteria for at least one psychiatric disorder at the age of 21 (including depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder).
- Abused children are 25% more likely to experience teen pregnancy.
- Children who experience child abuse and neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as a juvenile, 28% more likely to be arrested as an adult, and 30% more likely to commit violent crime.
- 14.4% of all men in prison in the United States were abused as children and 36.7% of all women in prison were abused as children.
- Children who have been sexually abused are 2.5 times more likely to develop alcohol abuse.
- Children who have been sexually abused are 3.8 times more likely to develop drug addictions.
- Nearly two-thirds of the people in treatment for drug abuse reported being abused as children.

Source: US Department of Justice Reports 2006

IN ARIZONA...

- Arizona ranks 40th out of 50 states in overall child well-being (*KidsCount, 2009*).
- Each day, approximately 95 parents and/or caregivers are reported for suspected abuse, neglect, and abandonment in the state of Arizona (*AZ DES, 10/08-3/09*).
- As of 2007, 10% of Arizona high school students dropped out, one of the highest percentages in the nation (*KidsCount, 2007*).
- Arizona ranks 47th out of 50 states in highest teen birth rates (*KidsCount, 2008*).
- Between April 1, 2008 and March 30, 2009, there were over 34,000 reports of child abuse, neglect, and abandonment to Arizona Child Protective Services (*AZ DES, 3/09*).
- More than half of all child abuse victims also suffer from neglect (60%), while one-third suffers from physical abuse (*AZ DES, 2006*).



Section Two

- Over the last four years, six percent (6%) of all reported child abuse cases involved sexual abuse (*AZ DES, 3/09*).
- There were 65 child deaths in 2007 that were due to child maltreatment (*Arizona Child Fatality Review Program, 2009*)
- Child abuse and neglect often result not only in physical harm or even death, but also profound development and behavior problems (*American Academy of Family Physicians, 2006*).
- Abused and neglected children are at greater risk of delinquent behavior, including substance abuse, criminal activity and high-risk health behaviors, personality disorders, and of mistreating their own children and spouses (*American Academy of Family Physicians, 2006*).



Recognizing Signs of Child Abuse and Neglect

The following signs may signal the presence of child abuse or neglect.

The child:

- Shows sudden changes in behavior or school performance
- Has not received help for physical or medical problems brought to the parents' attention
- Has learning problems (or difficulty concentrating) that cannot be attributed to specific physical or psychological causes
- Is always watchful, as though preparing for something bad to happen
- Lacks adult supervision
- Is overly compliant, passive, or withdrawn
- Comes to school or other activities early, stays late, and does not want to go home

The parent:

- Shows little concern for the child
- Denies the existence of—or blames the child for—the child's problems in school or at home
- Asks teachers or other caregivers to use harsh physical discipline if the child misbehaves
- Sees the child as entirely bad, worthless, or burdensome
- Demands a level of physical or academic performance the child cannot achieve
- Looks primarily to the child for care, attention, and satisfaction of emotional needs

The parent and child:

- Rarely touch or look at each other
- Consider their relationship entirely negative
- State that they do not like each other

The following are some signs often associated with particular types of child abuse and neglect. It is important to note, however, that these types of abuse are more typically found in combination than alone. A physically abused child, for example, is often emotionally abused as well, and a sexually abused child also may be neglected.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

The child:

- Has unexplained burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, or black eyes
- Has fading bruises or other marks noticeable after an absence from school

Section Two

- Seems frightened of the parents and protests or cries when it is time to go home
- Shrinks at the approach of adults
- Reports injury by a parent or another adult caregiver

The parent or other adult caregiver:

- Offers conflicting, unconvincing, or no explanation for the child's injury
- Describes the child as "evil," or in some other very negative way
- Uses harsh physical discipline with the child
- Has a history of abuse as a child

NEGLECT

The child:

- Is frequently absent from school
- Begs or steals food or money
- Lacks needed medical or dental care, immunizations, or glasses
- Is consistently dirty and has severe body odor
- Lacks sufficient clothing for the weather
- Abuses alcohol or other drugs
- States that there is no one at home to provide care

The parent or other adult caregiver:

- Appears to be indifferent to the child
- Seems apathetic or depressed
- Behaves irrationally or in a bizarre manner
- Is abusing alcohol or other drugs

SEXUAL ABUSE

The child:

- Has difficulty walking or sitting
- Suddenly refuses to change for gym or to participate in physical activities
- Reports nightmares or bedwetting
- Experiences a sudden change in appetite
- Demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior
- Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease, particularly if under age 14
- Runs away
- Reports sexual abuse by a parent or another adult caregiver

The parent or other adult caregiver:

- Is unduly protective of the child or severely limits the child's contact with other children, especially of the opposite sex



Section Two

- Is secretive and isolated
- Is jealous or controlling with family members

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

The child:

- Shows extremes in behavior, such as overly compliant or demanding behavior, extreme passivity, or aggression
- Is either inappropriately adult (parenting other children, for example) or inappropriately infantile (frequently rocking or head-banging, for example)
- Is delayed in physical or emotional development
- Has attempted suicide
- Reports a lack of attachment to the parent

The parent or other adult caregiver:

- Constantly blames, belittles, or berates the child
- Is unconcerned about the child and refuses to consider offers of help for the child's problems
- Overtly rejects the child

*Adapted from: Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect: Signs and Symptoms Factsheet
Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2007*



Child Abuse and Neglect at a Glance

	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>INDICATORS</i>
Physical Abuse	Intentionally harming a child, use of excessive force, reckless endangerment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unexplained bruises, welts, and scars • Injuries in various stages of healing • Bite marks • Unexplained burns • Fractures • Injuries not fitting explanation • Internal damage or head injury
Sexual Abuse	Engaging a child in any activity for an adult’s own sexual gratification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age-inappropriate sexual knowledge • Sexual acting out • Child disclosure of abuse • Excessive masturbation • Physical injury to genital area • Pregnancy or STD at a young age • Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing • Depression, distress, or trauma • Extreme fear
Emotional Abuse	The systematic diminishment of a child. It is designed to reduce a child’s self-concept to the point where the child feels unworthy of respect, unworthy of friendship, and unworthy of love and protection, the natural birthrights of all children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habit disorders (thumb sucking, biting, rocking, enuresis) • Conduct disorders (withdrawal or anti-social behavior) • Behavior extremes • Overly adaptive behavior • Lags in emotional or intellectual development • Low self-esteem • Depression, suicide attempts
Neglect	Failure of a person responsible for the child’s welfare to provide necessary food, care, clothing, shelter, or medical attention; can also be failure to act when such failure interferes with a child’s health and safety.	<p>Physical Signs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malnourishment • Missed immunizations • Lack of dental care • Lack of supervision • Consistent dirtiness • Constant tiredness/listlessness <p>Material Signs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient/improper clothing • Filthy living conditions • Inadequate shelter • Insufficient food/poor nutrition

Section Two

Reporting Abuse and Neglect

Anyone can and should report suspected child abuse or neglect. If you think a child is being mistreated, take immediate action. The number to call in Arizona is: **(888) SOS-CHILD (888-767-2445)**. When you call to make a report, you will be asked for specific information, such as:

- The child's name and location.
- The name and relationship (if known) of the person you believe is abusing the child.
- What you have seen or heard regarding the abuse or neglect.
- The names of any other people who might know about the abuse.
- Your name and phone number (voluntary).

We can all help prevent child abuse by recognizing the risk factors, protecting children who are at risk, and supporting families who are experiencing stressors. Reporting the situation may protect the child and get additional help for the family. Arizona provides training for professionals who are required by law to report child abuse and neglect (e.g., childcare providers, teachers, doctors, clergy) and workshops on responding to signs of stress in families.

Many nonprofit, public, education, social service, and childcare organizations in your community play a role in providing supports and services to children, youth, and families. Parenting education, crisis/respice care, transitional housing, and literacy programs, as well as family resource centers, teen parent support groups, fatherhood groups, and marriage education classes, support families in important ways.



Section Two

Section Two Review Questions

- What are the four types of maltreatment that most states recognize?

- In what ways does child abuse and neglect impact our society?

- What would you need to do if you thought a child was being maltreated?

Questions for My Coordinator



Child Abuse and Neglect Resources

American Bar Association Center on Children & the Law

www.abanet.org/child/home.html

The goal of the ABA Center on Children and the Law is to improve the lives of children through advances in law, justice, knowledge, practice, and public policy. This site includes child welfare tips and great child advocacy links.

Administration for Children & Families (ACF)—Children’s Bureau

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb>

Part of the Department of Health and Human Services, the ACF Children’s Bureau provides federal reports on child maltreatment, current initiatives, and special events.

American Humane Association

www.americanhumane.org

American Humane Association is a network of individuals and organizations working to prevent cruelty, abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children and animals and to assure that their interests and well-being are fully, effectively, and humanely guaranteed by an aware and caring society.

American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC)

www.apsac.org

APSAC works to ensure that everyone affected by child maltreatment receives a professional response by providing scholarly and clinical materials. This site includes information on state chapters, legislation, and additional resources.

Best Interests

www.childadvocacy.com

This online magazine offers news and resources for professionals and volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children. The site includes information on legal issues, medical topics, web resources, and legislation.

Center on Child Abuse & Neglect (CCAN)

<http://devbehavpeds.ouhsc.edu/ccan.asp>

The Center on Child Abuse and Neglect is a university-based center that directs research, professional and public education, clinical services, and administrative programs in the field of child maltreatment. This site is for professionals in the field of child abuse and neglect, and it includes a section devoted to working with Native communities.

Child Abuse Prevention Network

<http://child-abuse.com>

This site is for professionals in the field of child abuse and neglect. Child maltreatment, physical abuse, psychological maltreatment, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse and neglect are their key areas of concern. They provide unique and powerful tools for all

Section Two

workers to support the identification, investigation, treatment, adjudication, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

www.childwelfare.gov

The Child Welfare Information Gateway is a national resource for professionals seeking information on child maltreatment; all aspects of child abuse and neglect; prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse; and other child welfare issues. Their excellent website provides informational databases, links, and current highlights.

Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)

www.cwla.org

CWLA is an association of public and private nonprofit agencies that assist abused and neglected children and families through a wide range of services. The site offers information on their programs, publications, and upcoming conferences and trainings.

Children Now

www.childrennow.org

Children Now utilizes research and the mass media to make children a top priority across the country. They work to improve the quality of news and entertainment media for children and about children's issues.

A Family's Guide to the Child Welfare System

www.cwla.org/childwelfare/familyguide.htm

This resource guide was created to help families better understand how the child welfare system works and to inform families of their rights and responsibilities. CASA/GAL volunteers may also find it an informative look at the system.

Foster Care & Adoptive Community

www.fosterparents.com

This foster parent resource provides articles, website links, and information on local foster parent associations. Links include grandparent and relative caregiver links, medical links, and links to resources on adoption, HIV, educational issues, attachment disorders, FAS, and ADD/ADHD.

Indian Country Child Trauma Center (ICCTC)

www.icctc.org

Indian Country Child Trauma Center was established to develop trauma-related treatment protocols, outreach materials, and service delivery guidelines specifically adapted and designed for Native American children and their families.

Kempe Center

www.kempecenter.org

This site was designed to provide a clinically based resource for training, consultation, program development and evaluation, and research regarding all forms of child abuse and



Section Two

neglect. The center is committed to multidisciplinary approaches to improving the recognition, treatment, and prevention of all forms of abuse and neglect.

National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC)

www.naccchildlaw.org

NACC is a nonprofit professional membership organization dedicated to quality representation and protection of children in the legal system. Their purpose is to assist attorneys and other professionals in their work with children in the legal system. At the same time, NACC carries out a policy agenda designed to improve the legal system for children. This site provides advocacy links and lists upcoming events.

National Center for Youth Law (NCYL)

www.youthlaw.org

NCYL provides information, training, and consultation on youth law matters to legal services for attorneys and other professionals serving poor children and youth. Its areas of expertise include abuse and neglect, termination of parental rights, public benefits for children, children's health, and the rights of children living in institutions.

National Children's Advocacy Center

www.nationalcac.org

This agency provides prevention, intervention, and treatment services to physically and sexually abused children and their families within a child-focused team approach.

National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)

www.nicwa.org

The National Indian Child Welfare Association is the most comprehensive source of information on American Indian child welfare. NICWA works to address the issues of child abuse and neglect through training, research, public policy, and grassroots community development. NICWA also works to support compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978. The public policy section of NICWA's website provides information on how specific child welfare laws impact Indian children.

Native American Children's Alliance (NACA)

www.nativechildalliance.org

The Native American Children's Alliance is an intertribal, cross-mentoring organization whose mission is to inspire and support the development, growth, and maintenance of multidisciplinary teams and Children's Advocacy Centers in Native American and Alaska Native communities in their efforts to address child abuse. These centers specialize in the forensic interviewing and examination of Native child victims and witnesses.

National Children's Alliance (NCA)

www.nca-online.org

NCA's Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) are community-based programs that bring together representatives from law enforcement, juvenile court counselors, mental health



Section Two

agencies, and other service-providing agencies to address the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse cases.

National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)

www.ncjfcj.org

The NCJFCJ seeks a society in which every child and every family in need of judicial oversight has access to fair, effective, and timely justice. Their website includes sections on child abuse and neglect, family violence, juvenile delinquency, and substance abuse.

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org

This site offers links to the latest facts and figures on juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, and violence, and includes many of the organization's publications, grant options, and local resources.

Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) America

www.preventchildabuse.org

PCA America is a nationally recognized organization for the prevention of child abuse through media, training, and technical assistance. The site has several links/resources, along with child abuse facts and special events.

Represent (formerly Foster Care Youth United)

www.youthcomm.org/Publications/FCYU.htm

This is a teen-written magazine that discusses issues facing children throughout the foster care system. Its goal is to train, inform, and provide a voice for teens through print journalism.

Tribal Court Clearinghouse

www.tribal-institute.org

The Tribal Court Clearinghouse was developed on a volunteer basis by the Tribal Law and Policy Institute, an Indian-owned and -operated nonprofit organized to design and develop education, research, training, and technical assistance programs that enhance justice in Indian country and the health, well-being, and culture of Native peoples. The Tribal Court Clearinghouse provides extensive information and resources about tribal, federal, and state laws that affect Native peoples, including the full text of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

U.S. Department of Justice Office of Tribal Justice

www.usdoj.gov/otj

The Office of Tribal Justice provides a single point of contact within the Justice Department for meeting the broad and complex federal responsibilities to federally recognized Indian tribes.



