

Abuse and Neglect

BAPC FAST FACTS

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Child abuse and neglect are serious issues that can have a profound impact on a child's development. In the United States, there are dedicated laws that are designed to protect children, define abuse and neglect, and penalize individuals for neglecting their biological child or a child legally under their care. In 2010 The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act was amended and reauthorized to minimally define child abuse and neglect as such:

"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."

According to www.childwelfare.gov, there are different types of child abuse and neglect. These main categories are physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse. There are several signs to be aware of that may signal a child is being abused or

neglected including, but not limited to sudden changes in mood and behavior, a declined performance at school or learning difficulties not normally identified by other physical or psychological causes, and constant anxiety.

The damage from child abuse and neglect can have a lifelong impact on children. Victims of abuse and neglect are less likely to develop healthy relationships. Sustained trauma, especially at an early age, can decrease a child's hope, their ability to bounce back from adversity, and be successful in school, work, and beyond.

There is a clear distinction between effective discipline techniques and abuse or neglect. It is important for parents to align their family values with child discipline techniques. Discipline is healthy for children and provides structure built around parent expectations. Parents should choose discipline strategies that emphasize their child's strengths and encourage the behaviors you want to see from your child.

When considering outside childcare providers, lean into your strength of **social intelligence**. Consider not only the individuals that will be caring for or working directly with your child, but also be aware of who else may be around your children. Do you know these other individuals? How will they be interacting with your child? Are they trustworthy? If a situation or scenario feels uncomfortable, trust your parenting instincts.

Suspected child abuse or neglect should be reported to local child protective services. The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline is staffed 24 hours a day at 1.800.4.A.CHILD. All Beech Acres Parenting Center

employees are mandated reporters and are required to report any suspected child abuse or neglect. At Beech Acres Parenting Center we believe the best way to help children is through their parents. You have the strengths you need to raise capable, caring, contributing children and we're here to help. To learn more about effective discipline or other parenting issues schedule a parent coaching session today.

Additional Resources:

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/>

<http://www.apa.org/pi/families/resources/understanding-child-abuse.aspx>

<https://www.childhelp.org/hotline/>

At Beech Acres Parenting Center, we uncover the natural gifts of children by unleashing the power of parents and caregivers. As a contemporary parenting center, BAPC serves over 20,000 people annually through a wide range of services including foster care, adoption, behavioral health support, parent coaching and much more. All of our programs are founded in our Natural Strength Parenting™ framework which enables parents to unlock their own potential by building on their unique strengths. For more information, visit www.beechacres.org.

NATURAL STRENGTH PARENTING™


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