

Activities



1. In groups, use a chart to compare and contrast abuse, neglect, and domestic violence. How are they alike? How are they different?

2. Sometimes people are reluctant to report abuse, neglect, or domestic violence. They may be scared, or afraid to get involved in the situation. What advice would you give someone that was reluctant to report ongoing abuse?



3. What signs do you think point to a possible form of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence? List them and then share your thoughts with your classmates.



4. Create an informational slide presentation that describes abuse, neglect, and domestic violence, and give the steps for reporting these incidents.



Home Connection With your family members, discuss the problem of domestic violence in our society. Why do you think it occurs in some families? What steps and actions are used in your home that helps prevent any type of violence among family members? Write down your thoughts and place this assignment in your health portfolio.

Discussion Questions

Why might someone be reluctant to report abuse?

What signs might signal that a person is a victim of neglect?

PREVENT

Abuse, Neglect, and Domestic Violence

Abuse in families and relationships can take many forms including verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual. Sometimes, several forms of abuse can occur together.

- Verbal abuse can include name-calling, being yelled at, belittled, or constantly put down.
- Emotional abuse occurs if a person is constantly blamed for everything or frequently rejected by a parent or significant other.
- Physical abuse is an intentional injury to a person.
- Sexual abuse occurs when a child is subjected to a sexually oriented act, practice, contact, or interaction in which an adult has used the child for sexual stimulation. A person that is forced into a sexually oriented act by a spouse or significant other would also be considered a victim of sexual abuse.
- Sexual exploitation is a crime and form of abuse that involves using children in a sexually explicit way for personal gain. Examples include: child or teen prostitution and using children to create pornography.



CHILD NEGLECT



Neglect occurs when a child doesn't get what he/she needs to thrive physically and emotionally.

- Physical neglect occurs when a person fails to provide basic needs or a safe, sanitary living environment for a child in his/her care. Failing to provide adequate food, clothing, medical care, or placing a child in an unsafe environment are all forms of physical neglect.
- Emotional neglect occurs when a child is made to feel unloved, unwanted, or unworthy.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence or abuse is a pattern of controlling behaviors that occur to gain power or control over an intimate partner or significant other in a current or former dating, married, or cohabiting relationship. Domestic violence is a combination of physical force and terror designed to cause physical, emotional, social, religious, or economic harm to victims.



What To Do if Abuse, Neglect, or Domestic Violence Occurs

Whether a person is a victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence, or witnesses or knows someone that is being abused or neglected, there are steps he/she can take to get help.

- Tell someone such as a teacher or a counselor at school.
- Share your concerns with a trusted relative.
- Tell a doctor if you have been abused or neglected.
- Don't cover up for family members. Seek help from trusted adults, law enforcement, and social service agencies that can help end the abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.