

Neglect is the #1 form of abuse

Mandated reporters are the most common reporters of abuse

Types of Abuse

Physical Abuse

- Non accidental trauma or physical injury
- Harming a child physically with cruel and/or malicious intent
- Overly harsh discipline or physical punishment
- Can occur in ANY family

Sexual Abuse

- Child and an adult or older child
- Most sexual abusers know the child
- 1/3 of abusers are related to the child
- Child on child is the most common form of sexual abuse

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Emotional Abuse

- Also known as psychological abuse or as "chronic verbal aggression"
- Confinement, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation
- Diminish the sense of identity, dignity, and self-worth



PHYSICAL - "Unexplained" bruises, burns, welts. Cigarette burns, rope burns. Injury in suspicious locations that are easy to cover up (wrists, upper arms, back, upper legs)

SEXUAL-

Indicators of Abuse

Physical Abuse

Physical Abuse

- Exhibits Drastic "new" behavior
- Excessively aggressive or violent
- Verbally abusive toward others
- Cruel towards animals
- Fearful, withdrawn, depressed, suicidal
- Self injurious behaviors
- Physical indicators - bruises/injuries
- Clingy



Indicators of Abuse

Physical Abuse

Sexual Abuse

Sexual Abuse

- Age inappropriate sexual behavior
- Demonstration sexual acts on peers or toys
- Masturbation to the exclusion of normal activities
- Excessive curiosity about sex, genitalia, etc.
- Molest other children
- STD's
- Emotional and behavioral problems



Indicators of Abuse

Physical Abuse

Sexual Abuse

Neglect Abuse

Neglect Abuse

- Severe neglect: malnutrition, failure to provide medical care, food, and shelter, unsafe/unclean home environment
- General neglect: child is extremely hungry, steals food
- Clothes visibly dirty, hair unwashed
- Sleeps at odd times
- Play alone often
- Behavioral Problems
- Developmental delays
- Self abuse behaviors



Indicators of Abuse

Physical Abuse

Sexual Abuse

Neglect Abuse

Emotional Abuse

Emotional Abuse

- Withdrawn, depressed
- "Acts" and is considered a bully
- Often uses profanity
- Exaggerated fearfulness
- Suffers from sleep and eating disorders
- Self abusive behaviors
- Repetitive rhythmic movements
- Chronic bed wetting
- Very little verbal or physical communication w/ others
- Comments such as "Mom and Dad always tell me I am bad"



Physical & Behavioral Indicators for each form of abuse.

PHYSICAL - "Unexplained" bruises, burns, welts. Cigarette burns, rope burns. Injury in suspicious locations that are easy to cover up (wrists, upper arms, back, upper legs)

SEXUAL- Overly interested in sexual conversation/says alarming things.





NEGLECT - Poor hygiene, unsuitable clothing/lack of clothing

EMOTIONAL - eating disorders, speech disorders, nervous disorders, Age inappropriate

behaviors such as bedwetting

High Risk Situations

Some situations at camp may prove more difficult for proactive and effective child supervision:

-  **Transitions between activity periods**
-  **All-camp activities**
-  **Blindspots**
-  **Bathrooms**





C4K Reporting Procedures

- All Camp4Kids volunteers are mandated reporters
- Know when to report the suspicion of abuse
- Immediately (ASAP) notify a Director
- If the accusation is against a staff member, the camp director will suspend the person involved





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3 things to consider regarding child abuse -

1. If you suspect it, REPORT IT!
2. You are not required to prove that abuse has occurred
3. Investigations should be conducted by professionals!





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ALL information is confidential.



How to Respond to a Child Reporting Abuse

Remain Calm



Support



Listen



Reassure



**Use the child's
language**



**Encourage – "Who,
What, When, & Where"**





Remain Calm - Do not overreact & control your own emotions to not take away from the camper sharing with you. Be conscious of your vocal tone and body language

Listen - Let them tell their whole story before interjecting.

Use the child's language - don't use words they wouldn't understand or would find embarrassing

Reassure - but be sure to do so realistically - they are not to blame for what has happened

Support - Even though responsibility will be turned over, the child will see you as a safe person.

Encourage - Allow the space for a child to confide in you by asking "Who what when where" but avoid "why questions, as it may lead the child to think that they did something wrong or they need to defend themselves

"Share with a helping person" - You can assure them that you will not share the information with other counselors or campers, but you have to let a "helping person" (Director) know so they can get proper help.



Bullying

Bullying is **unwanted, aggressive behavior** among children that involves a real or perceived **power imbalance**. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have **serious, lasting problems**.

When considering "bullying," the behavior must be aggressive and include:

An Imbalance of Power

Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.

Repetition

Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.



Types of Bullying



Verbal

Verbal bullying is saying or writing mean things. Verbal bullying includes:

- Teasing
- Name-calling
- Inappropriate sexual comments
- Taunting
- Threatening to cause harm



Social

Social bullying involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships. Social bullying includes:

- Leaving someone out on purpose
- Telling other children not to be friends with someone
- Spreading rumors about someone
- Embarrassing someone in public



Physical

Physical bullying involves hurting a person's body or possessions. Physical bullying includes:

- Hitting/kicking/pinching
- Spitting
- Tripping/pushing
- Taking or breaking someone's things
- Making mean or rude hand gestures



Bullying – Risk Factors

No single factor puts a child at risk of being bullied or bullying others. Bullying can happen anywhere—Depending on the environment, some groups—such as LGBTQ+ & socially isolated youth—may be at an increased risk of being bullied.

CHILDREN AT RISK OF BEING BULLIED:

Generally, children who are bullied have one or more of the following risk factors:

- Are perceived as different from their peers, such as being overweight or underweight, wearing glasses or different clothing, being new to a school, or being unable to afford what kids consider “cool”
- Are perceived as weak or unable to defend themselves
- Are depressed, anxious, or have low self esteem
- Are less popular than others and have few friends
- Do not get along well with others, seen as annoying or provoking, or antagonize others for attention

However, even if a child has these risk factors, it doesn't mean that they will be bullied



Bullying – Warning Signs

What are some signs that may point toward a child being bullied?



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- Unexplainable injuries
- Lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics, or jewelry
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches, feeling sick or faking illness
- Changes in eating habits, like suddenly skipping meals or binge eating. Kids may come home from school hungry because they did not eat lunch.
- Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to go to school
- Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations
- Feelings of helplessness or decreased self esteem
- Self-destructive behaviors such as running away from home, harming themselves, or talking about suicide.



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What are signs that a child is bullying others?



Signs that a child is bullying others -

Get into physical or verbal fights

Have friends who bully others

Are increasingly aggressive

Get sent to the principal's office or to detention frequently

Have unexplained extra money or new belongings

Blame others for their problems

Don't accept responsibility for their actions

Are competitive and worry about their reputation or popularity

Let's Discuss!

How do we talk about bullying & what can we do as counselors to ensure our campers have a safe and positive experience at camp?

Bullying (DISCUSSION) main points

Help children understand bullying

Keep lines of communication open - check in with your campers throughout the week. Do not let things get too far out of your control.

Having conversations about impacts of bullying (devotions/day 1 expectations)

Model how to treat others with kindness and respect

Stop Bullying on the spot

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1

Intervene

2

Separate

3

Ensure ALL camper safety

4

Medical/Mental needs

5

Model respectful behavior

6

Stay Calm :)



Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Don't ignore it. Don't think kids can work it out without adult help.
- Don't immediately try to sort out the facts.
- Don't force other kids to say publicly what they saw.
- Don't question the children involved in front of other kids.
- Don't talk to the kids involved together, only separately.
- Don't make the kids involved apologize or patch up relations on the spot.

AND...
**Don't forget the Directors are
here to help :)**

