Child Abuse and Neglect

**Intent Statement**
This policy was developed to assist child care providers by providing guidelines for the detection and reporting of suspected cases of child abuse or neglect.

**Procedure and Practice**
Any and all suspected cases of child abuse or neglect will be reported immediately to the Department for Community Based Services or the child abuse hotline without repercussion to any staff member. We follow Kentucky laws for reporting child abuse and neglect. Those who work with children are legally required to report abuse and/or neglect and cannot shift the responsibility of reporting to anyone else.

Known and suspected cases of abuse and/or neglect are reported to the **Child Protection Hot Line** (1-877-597-2331) or to the **Protection and Permanency** office of the county in which the child resides. The following link provides a local Protection and Permanency office search by county: https://apps.chfs.ky.gov/Office_Phone/index.aspx

Staff members accused of child abuse may be suspended or given leave pending investigation of accusation.

Suspicions that a child is in immediate danger will be reported to 911.

**What to report:**
- A report should contain enough information to identify the child involved, any persons responsible for the abuse or neglect (if known), and the nature and extent of the maltreatment
- Include a word-for-word account, without editing, of what the child said and who was present when the child revealed the abuse
- Record the child’s emotional state, gestures, and facial expressions and what was happening at the time the child revealed the abuse
- The report should also include a careful description of the size, shape, color, location and drainage of any obvious, physical injury, and, if necessary, a drawing describing the injury

**Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma**
House Bill 285 requires that all child care professionals receive 1.5 clock hours of training on Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma every five years. Early Care and Education professionals must receive their first 1.5-hour training by the end of December 2013 and every 5 years thereafter.
Relevant Kentucky Revised Statutes

KRS 600.020 (1): Introductory Matters: Definitions

“Abused or neglected child” means a child whose health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm by his parent, guardian, or other person exercising custodial control or supervision of the child.

KRS 620.010: Legislative purpose
Children have certain fundamental rights which must be protected and preserved. These include but are not limited to, the rights to adequate food, clothing and shelter; the right to be free from physical, sexual or emotional injury or exploitation; the right to develop physically, mentally, and emotionally to their potential; and the right to educational instruction and the right to a secure, stable family.

KRS 620.030: Duty to report dependency, neglect, or abuse
A child has a fundamental right to be safe and to be nurtured. Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is dependent, neglected, or abused shall immediately make a report to the local law enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police. The following persons are required to submit a more detailed report, including but not limited to: teacher, school personnel, child caring personnel, etc. Any supervisor who receives information from an employee report shall promptly make a report to the proper authorities for investigation. Reports will be assessed and investigated. Social services provided to children experiencing maltreatment.

KRS 620.990 (1): Penalty
Anyone that does not report child abuse or neglect may be charged with a Class B misdemeanor, which could result in a $250.00 fine and/or up to three months in jail.

Definitions of Abuse

Physical abuse
This is infliction of injury, other than by accidental means, on a child by another person. Forms of physical abuse may be: hitting, biting, kicking, beating, shoving, burning, pulling of hair, or other non-accidental methods of causing bodily harm to a child would be covered under this definition.

Sexual abuse
Refers to sexual assault or exploitation of a minor by an adult, or between two children when one of the children is significantly older or there is a significant power differential between the children, or when coercion is used. Often included in this definition is touching of the breast, genitals, or buttocks of a child, penetration of the anus or vagina with an object, fellatio (oral sex on a male), cunnilingus (oral sex on a female), prostitution, exploitation or involvement of child in pornography.
Neglect
This is failure of a caregiver or custodian of a child to provide adequate care and protection for the child. Neglect may involve failure to provide sufficient food, shelter, medical care, clothing, or supervision to a child. Educational neglect may fall under this category.

Psychological or emotional abuse
This occurs when an adult conveys to a child that the child is endangered, unsafe, worthless, unwanted, or damaged. It may include verbal threats, terrorization, isolation, or frequent berating of a child by the adult.

Applicable
This policy applies to all staff, substitute staff, parents and volunteers in the child care setting.

Communication
Staff and volunteers will receive a written copy of this policy in their orientation packets before beginning work at this facility. All parents will receive a written copy of this policy in the parent handbook. A copy of this policy will be posted on the parent bulletin board in each classroom. Staff, parents, and volunteers will receive written notification of any updates.

References


Reviewed by:

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Director/Owner

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Board Member

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CCHC/Health Professional

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Staff Member

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Parent/Guardian

Effective Date/Review Date
This policy is effective immediately. It will be reviewed yearly by the center director.