

Where Excellence and Creativity Merge

Volunteer Mandated Reporter Training

Thank you for
volunteering for the
Fayette County Public
School System!



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Who is a Mandated Reporter?

Anyone “employed by or volunteering at a business or an organization, whether public, private, for profit, not for profit, or voluntary, that provides care, treatment, education, training, supervision, coaching, counseling, recreational programs, or shelter to children” is a mandatory reporter.



Mandatory reporting of abuse is intended "to cause the protective services of the state to be brought to bear on the situation" and the law "shall be liberally construed so as to carry out the[se] purposes."



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Source: Official Code of Georgia Annotated O.C.G.A. § 19-7-5

When Should I Report the Child Abuse or Neglect?

- ▶ If you should ever have a concern about a child's safety based on information shared with you by the child or that you observe during your interactions, please report those findings **IMMEDIATELY!**
 - A report of **suspected abuse**, “shall be made **immediately**, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe that suspected child abuse has occurred . . . Oral reports shall be followed by a later report in writing, if requested, to a child welfare agency providing protective services . . . or, in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney.”

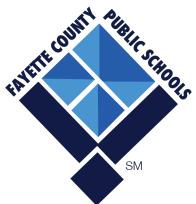


To whom should I report the abuse/neglect?

- ▶ Teacher
- ▶ School Counselor
- ▶ School Administration

"An employee or volunteer who makes a report to the person designated...shall be deemed to have fully complied with this subsection."

Source: O.C.G.A. § 19-7-5



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Types of Abuse

- ▶ You should report incidents when a child makes reference to....
 - Physical Abuse
 - Neglect
 - Sexual Abuse
 - Emotional Abuse



Physical Abuse

- ▶ Physical abuse occurs when a child suffers a non-accidental injury that may include severe beatings, burns, bites, fractures, bruises, welts or other physical problems.
- ▶ *Corporal punishment is legal in Georgia. However, intentionally injuring a child is not. Spanking and any other consequence for a child's behavior should focus on disciplining rather than punishing a child.*
 - ▶ *Corporal punishment is the use of intentional infliction of pain, like spanking, as a form of discipline*



Possible Indicators of Physical Abuse

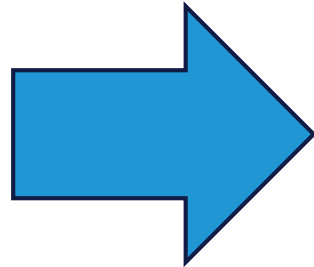
- ▶ ***Unexplained*** bruises, bald patches, burns, fractures, bites, broken bones, black eyes, and welts that are visible
- ▶ Fading bruises or other ***noticeable*** marks
- ▶ A child who is ***frightened*** of their parents or other adults



Neglect

What is Neglect?

- ▶ Neglect occurs when a parent or caretaker allows a child to experience avoidable suffering or fails to provide basic essentials for physical, social, and emotional development.



Possible Indicators of Neglect

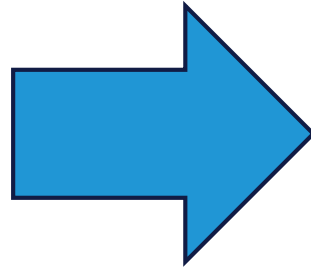
- Poor hygiene
- Lack of needed clothing
- Evidence of no or poor supervision



Sexual Abuse

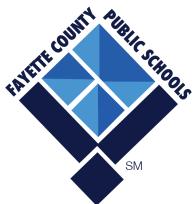
What is Sexual Abuse?

- ▶ Sexual abuse occurs when an adult or older child does anything with a child for his or her sexual gratification. Sexual abuse includes fondling, child sexual exploitation, incest, exposing a child to pornography and encouraging or forcing a child to participate in pornographic activities.



Possible Indicators of Sexual Abuse

- ▶ Difficulty walking or sitting
- ▶ Reports of nightmares or bedwetting
- ▶ A sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior



Emotional Abuse

- ▶ Emotional abuse is excessive or aggressive parental behavior that places unreasonable demands on a child to perform above his or her capabilities
 - *Not an isolated incident, but a persistent and chronic pattern of behavior that occurs over a period of time.*



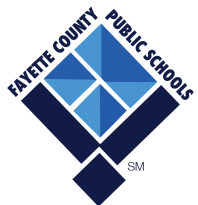
Possible Indicators of Emotional Abuse

- ▶ **Extremes** in behavior (overly compliant or demanding; extremely passive or aggressive)
- ▶ **Inappropriately** adult or infantile
- ▶ **Delays** in physical or emotional development
- ▶ Reporting a **lack of attachment** to the parent



What to do when a child discloses information about abuse or neglect?

- 1) If a student discloses about child abuse or neglect, please tell the student that you **CARE** and ask the student to come with you to tell a teacher, school counselor, or administrator about their concerns.
- 2) Be **encouraging**, but DO NOT investigate or get details.
- 3) Act **quickly**



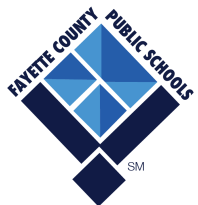
What Can You Say?

There are some reassuring statements that you can say.



However, keep your questions and statements to a minimum.

- ▶ “You did the right thing by telling me.”
- ▶ “Thank you for telling me.”
- ▶ “Do you mind coming with me to tell your teacher?”

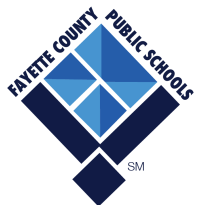


What **NOT** to Say When a Child Discloses About Abuse or Neglect?

Disclosing abuse is very stressful for a child and saying the wrong thing can make it even harder.



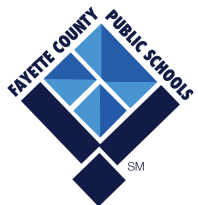
- ▶ “Why didn’t you stop him/her?”
 - *Avoid “why” questions that expect the child to take responsibility for being abused.*
- ▶ “Are you telling me the truth?” or “Are you making this up?”
 - *Don’t try to investigate the story - just listen*
- ▶ “Let me know if it happens again.”
 - *Act quickly! A child may not be brave enough to speak up twice. Even worse, the child could be seriously injured during the next episode of abuse.*



IMPORTANT

- ▶ Keep what the child said to you **CONFIDENTIAL**

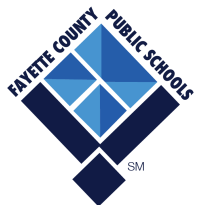
With exception of the teacher, school counselor, and/or school administration, **do not** share these details with their parents, your family, friends, or any other members of the school faculty.



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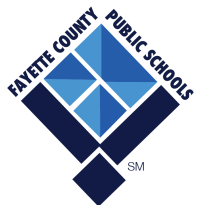
Failure to Report Child Abuse/Neglect

- ▶ In addition to professional repercussions, such as termination of employment, a person required to report a suspected case of child abuse who knowingly and willfully fails to do so shall be guilty of a criminal misdemeanor.

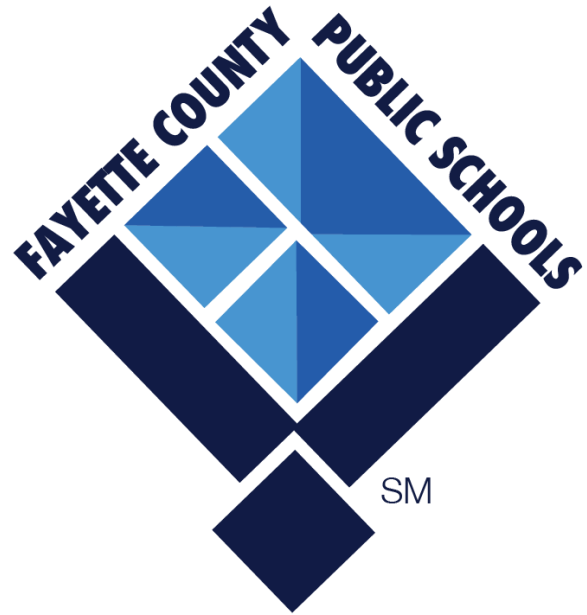


Our students' safety is our TOP priority!

- ▶ Please help us maintain a safe and caring community by following these guidelines as you volunteer in any capacity at the Fayette County Public School System.



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Thank you for volunteering for the Fayette County Public School System

We appreciate your time and support!