

RECOGNIZING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

A Guide for Connecting With Kids While Social Distancing

Teachers, therapists, and other providers who are working with kids remotely - kids need you to watch for signs of abuse and neglect and make reports!

DURING A CRISIS SUCH AS THIS, ABUSE INCREASES BUT REPORTING DECREASES

In times of stress and instability, abuse and neglect increase, while reports decrease due to the lack of interaction with safe adults outside the home.

That's why it's crucial for teachers, therapists, and others who are currently interacting with children through socially distant means to look out for their safety.



DO DAILY CHECK-INS

Establish a routine of checking in with students and clients about how life is going at home.



ASK WHAT THEY NEED

Establish a routine of checking in with students and clients about how life is going at home.



GIVE OPTIONS TO CONTACT YOU

Provide alternate options for how children can reach you outside of scheduled virtual visits, such as email or a social media messenger. (Giving out personal cell phone numbers is generally not recommended.)

It's especially important to keep an eye on kids who are at greatest risk.



HISTORY OF ABUSE

Record of physical, sexual or emotional abuse, neglect, drug use, or suicidal talk or attempts.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

History of domestic violence in the home.



INSUFFICIENT SUPPORT

Child takes care of other children or lives in a highly stressful home situation without support.



SPECIAL NEEDS

Child has special needs due to illness, disabilities or delays.



**IF YOU HAVE ANY SUSPICION THAT A CHILD MAY BE ABUSED, CALL THE
HOTLINE. YOU MAY BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING!**

1-877-NJ-ABUSE