

KEEPING KIDS "SAFE IN PLACE" DURING COVID-19

A Guide for Families and Community Members

Kids Need ALL ADULTS to Help Keep Them Safe

This means YOU! Any adult who interacts with or observes a child either at home, outside, or in a place where essential services are being provided *can and should* report when they suspect a child is unsafe or being neglected. **In times of crisis and economic instability, child abuse and neglect increases. However, reports of child abuse and neglect in Colorado are declining dramatically.**

Trust Your Gut

If something does not look safe, sound safe, or feel safe - REPORT IT. Children are not going to school, activities, places of worship and other public places where adults look out for their safety and well-being.

Making a Report Is Asking for HELP

When you report, you are asking for professional help and services for a child and their family. *You do not need proof.* You are not making an accusation.

Legal Protections

Anonymous reports are accepted from anyone. Anyone making a report in good faith is protected against civil/criminal penalty or adverse employment action. Your identity will be confidential, if requested.

You May Be the Only Person to Act.

If you *reasonably suspect* a child is unsafe - REPORT IT.

Statewide Child Abuse Hotline:

**844-CO-4-KIDS
(844-264-5437)**

***If a child is in immediate danger
call 911**

Signs a Child May Not Be Safe

Physical Abuse

- Child appears frightened of the caregiver.
- Child has burns, bites, broken bones, bruising, black eyes or complains of pain.
- Caregiver offers no explanation of a child's injury, the parent "blames" the child's behavior or personality for the injury. Ask yourself, "Does the story match the injury?"

Sexual Abuse

- Witnessing an adult inappropriately touching a child, watching pornography with, or saying sexual things to a child.
- Child demonstrates unusual sexual knowledge or behavior for their age.
- Difficult walking or sitting.

Emotional Abuse

- Child shows extremes in behavior; overly aggressive or compliant.
- Appears emotionally unattached to caregiver and others.
- Caregiver constantly blames, belittles or berates the child and refuses to help the child when needed.

Neglect

- Child begs for or steals food, has severe poor hygiene or states that no one at home provides care.
- Witnessing a child using alcohol or other drugs.
- Highly stressful family situations and/or adults in home abusing alcohol or other drugs.
- Unlocked weapons or guns in the home.



For more information and resources please visit www.sungatekids.org