

Main Office

1034 Sixth Avenue North
Naples, Florida 34102

941-263-8383

Fax: 941-263-7931

Hours: 8 AM to 5 PM, Mon-Fri
On call 24 hr/day

Satellite Office

Marion E. Fether Medical Center
1454 Madison Avenue
Immokalee, Florida 34142
(By appointment)

Child Protection Team is sponsored by the
Collier County Child Advocacy Council, Inc.,
State of Florida Department of Health,
State of Florida Office of the Attorney General
and the United Way of Collier County.



1034 Sixth Avenue North
Naples, Florida 34102

CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

COLLIER COUNTY
CHILD ADVOCACY COUNCIL, INC.



EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT

EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT

is the most common form of child abuse and neglect and it often precedes or accompanies other forms of abuse. In fact, EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT by the parent may be the most important factor in the development of subsequent neglect and abuse.

There are two forms of EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT: The first is emotional neglect, which is characterized by the parent's failure to meet the emotional needs of their child for warmth, affection and attention. The second, and most serious form of EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT, is emotional abuse. This occurs when parents create a persistent atmosphere of humiliation or have unrealistic expectations of the child.

EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT is often difficult to diagnose and document, and therefore, does not get reported as often as it should. It is important, however, to report EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT to a child protective agency when the child is being harmed by the parents' actions or lack of caring. Sometimes family members, friends, or clergy can help in less serious cases where there can be no child protective intervention by offering their support to the family, or by referring them to a local mental health agency.

If you know a child who is being abused or neglected, call Florida Abuse Hotline

1-800-96-ABUSE

PSYCHO-SOCIAL FACTORS

- Parental history of mental illness or emotional problems
- Alcohol and/or substance abuse
- Chaotic family
- Environmental stress/poverty/unemployment
- Physical illness
- Isolation/lack of support systems
- Depression
- Poor social skills/interpersonal relationships
- Poor self-esteem
- History of abuse and neglect
- Poor parenting skills
- Unrealistic expectations of the child
- Atmosphere of humiliation/lack of respect for family members

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD

- Developmental delays
- Speech disorders and delays
- Eating disorders
- Behavioral extremes/passive/aggressive/hyperactive/withdrawn
- Regressive behaviors/thumb sucking/rocking
- Conduct disorders/delinquent behavior
- Sleep disorders
- Excessive nail biting
- Hair pulling/bald patches
- Poor self-esteem/depression
- Lack of confidence in the environment
- Alcohol and/or substance abuse
- Attempted suicide
- Potential to abuse or neglect others

EMOTIONAL NEGLECT

- Lack of nurturing/comforting
- Lack of concern or involvement in child's daily or school activities
- Withholding of love or affection
- Not meeting the child's needs because of personal problems/desires

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Regularly calling child names/degrading child
- Constantly threatening child with violence
- Exposure to family violence/drugs/alcohol
- Encouraging delinquent behavior in child/stealing

WHERE YOU CAN GET HELP OR MORE INFORMATION

- Call your pediatrician, local mental health agency or Department of Health for help.
- Report any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children & Families in the phone book under emergency numbers.
- Call the Child Protection Team for more information on child abuse and neglect.