

## INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

1. Teachers Guide: Recognizing and Responding to Child Abuse Writing

Teachers Guide: Protecting Children From Abuse

### Why Teachers Matter

*Teachers and school staff make more child abuse reports than any other group of professionals.*

*Because you see children daily, you may notice warning signs others miss.*

*Recognizing and reporting abuse can save a child's life.*

## 7 Warning Signs That Should Never Be Ignored

1. Sudden Behavior Changes

A child becomes withdrawn, fearful, aggressive, or their school performance suddenly drops.

2. Fear of Going Home

The child seems anxious at dismissal time or tries to avoid going home. Offers to stay after school and help as often as possible. Acts out to get detention.

3. Unexplained Injuries

Bruises, burns, or marks with unclear or inconsistent explanations.

4. Sexual Knowledge Beyond Their Age

Sexual language or behaviors not typical for their developmental stage.

5. Neglect or Poor Hygiene

Consistently dirty clothing, hunger, fatigue, or lack of basic care.

6. Withdrawal or Depression

Loss of interest in friends or activities, sadness, isolation.

7. Hints About Secrets or Harm

Statements like "I can't tell," "I'll get in trouble," or "He said it's our secret."

If you suspect something is wrong but are afraid of putting ideas in the child's head; one way to find out is to ask: if anyone told them a secret that they are not allowed to tell anyone."

Keep in mind that children of abuse are typically threatened to never tell anyone what goes on at home.

**How Children Often Communicate Abuse** Children may not say "I'm being abused." Instead they may:

- Hint indirectly or speak about a "friend"
- Test whether an adult will listen by bringing up something they consider safe.
- Talk about a "friend" who is being hurt
- **Take all disclosures seriously.**

## What To Do If A Child Tells You

Believe the child

Stay calm and listen carefully

Assure them they are safe and it is okay to talk

If they ask you not to tell anyone just tell them you will do the best you can but don't promise  
Reassure them they did the right thing  
Report the concern immediately according to school policy  
Important Reminder  
You do not need proof to report suspected abuse.  
Your responsibility is to report suspicion, not investigate.

A Statistic Every Teacher Should Know

- A report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds in the United States.
- Many children never tell anyone.
- One caring adult can make the difference.

### **If You Suspect Abuse**

Follow your school district's reporting procedure or contact your local child protection agency.  
When in doubt, report the concern.

Protecting children must always come first.

#### 3. Powerful Homepage Layout That Grabs Attention in 5 Seconds

Most visitors decide in 3–5 seconds whether to stay on a site. The homepage should immediately show:

the problem + the mission + hope

Top Section (Hero Area)

Large headline:

Child Abuse Is Often Hidden.

But It Doesn't Have To Stay Silent.

Background image idea: A child holding a light or looking toward light.

Button:

Learn the Signs

Section 2: Shocking Statistics

Large numbers across the screen:

1 in 4 Girls

1 in 13 Boys experience sexual abuse before age 18.

91% know their abuser.

Only 1 in 10 children ever tell someone.

### **Section 3: Why This Matters Short statement:**

Childhood abuse doesn't end in childhood.

It can lead to lifelong trauma, addiction, depression, and serious health problems.

But early support can change a child's future.

Section 4: What You Can Do

3 simple boxes:

👁️ Recognize the signs

👂 **Believe children**

📞 **Report suspected abuse**

### **Section 5: Hope**

Headline:

## Breaking The Cycle From Silence To Strength

### Message:

When adults speak up, children are protected and survivors find hope.

Together we can break the cycle.

### Footer Section

#### Resources:

- Warning signs of abuse
- What to do if you suspect abuse
- Help for survivors
- Teacher resources

One thing that could make your website extremely powerful is a section called:

“Messages From Survivors to Children.”

Short supportive messages like:

“What happened to you is not your fault.”

“You deserve to be safe.”

“There are people who will believe you.”

These are incredibly meaningful for both children and adult survivors.

If you'd like, I can also help you create:

- A viral infographic for social media that spreads awareness quickly
- The 10 most powerful homepage headlines for a child abuse awareness site
- A “How to Report Suspected Abuse” page people actually read

These additions can make your site much more impactful and widely shared. 🙌