

## Teaching Points *for children* related to Child Abuse

What exactly is Child Abuse?

There are **4 main types** of Child Abuse

### **Neglect:**

Is when a parent or other person who is supposed to take care of a child does not do that; they might not give the child food, loving touches, help them stay clean, keep their home safe and clean, take them to school or to the doctor when they need to go, or leaves them alone when they are too young, or leaves them in a place that is not safe for them.

### **Physical Abuse:**

Is when a parent or someone who is older or supposed to take care of a child instead is not in charge of their anger and may hurt the child by kicking, biting, shaking, pushing, throwing, choking, burning or hitting with their hands or with something else, any of these things may harm the child. Sometimes older persons who do this don't seem really angry and may think they are giving the right kind of punishment to the child. But it is NEVER OK for someone else to do these things to hurt a child. Sometimes boys and girls treat other kids this way -like at school, when this happens it is called bullying. Bullying can also be when someone uses mean and angry words that make a child feel afraid. Bullying can also happen when someone posts mean, not true or hurtful things about someone else on the internet.

### **Sexual Abuse:**

Is when someone older touches or wants to look at or take pictures of a child's private parts (those parts covered by a bathing suit), or wants the child to touch the older person's private parts. This kind of abuse can also be when an older person shows a child pictures of naked people, touches the child's private parts with toys or other things, wants the child to watch them touch themselves or if they want the child to touch someone else's private parts. Sometimes people who sexually abuse kids use tricks - like being very nice, or telling the child how special they are, or they may give gifts to try to make the child think it is OK, to let them do these things. Sometimes the older person may tell the child they will hurt them or that something else bad will happen if they don't do as they say. Sometimes they may tell the child that someone the child cares about will get hurt if they don't do what they say. Sometimes they may even try to get the child to think that the child is the one being bad instead of the older person. It is NEVER a child's fault if a grown-up or older boy or girl touches a child's privates or makes a child do any of these things, even if the touches felt sort of good.

### **Emotional Abuse:**

This abuse is the kind of abuse that happens most often and is when a parent or other person who is supposed to take care of a child, acts in ways or uses hurtful words that make the child feel very bad about themselves. Kids who are emotionally abused sometimes feel like everything is their fault or that they are always bad. Sometimes these kids feel unwanted or that others do not care about them, or they may feel that they are not loved, that they are not good enough or that they never do things right. Some children who are emotionally abused feel that they are being kept from doing things that most

kids get to do like make and visit friends, or participate in sports or activities. Many times this kind of abuse happens with just words, but words can hurt just as much or more than being hit. We call it **Verbal Abuse** when someone older uses words and the way they say them, to make a child feel bad or afraid.

### **Domestic Violence**

Sometimes a grown up in a child's life or their own family, hurts a child's parent, another adult or also children. The grown- up who is doing the hurting may say mean things to the other person, yell at the other person, hit or hurt the other person's body, threaten by acting really mean and like they might hit them, or try to tell the other person what to do all of the time. This is called domestic violence or family fighting. Sometimes this person also hurts the children in the family by kicking, hitting, pushing, slapping, shaking or in other ways hurting the child's body, or by making them feel afraid that they might get hurt. This type of hurting to children in a family is also called family violence.

