South Dakota State University
ECE 220: Health, Safety, and Nutrition for Young Children

Concepts addressed in this course: Child abuse and neglect reporting

School Roles
- To maintain a safe and supportive environment for the child
- To comply with state law in reporting abuse and neglect
- To develop, support, and maintain a network which promotes humane treatment of all students

Teacher Roles
- To be familiar with the indicators of abuse and neglect
- To report SUSPECTED abuse and neglect immediately (this is mandatory!)
- To work cooperatively with agencies in investigating, treating, and following up
- To incorporate abuse and neglect curriculum when appropriate daily learning experiences

How/What to Report
- Name/age/address of child suspected of being abused
- Name/address of parent or caretaker of child
- Name of person you suspect of doing the abuse
- Why you are suspecting abuse/neglect
- Names/ages of other children in the household
- Location where incident occurred
- Primary language of the family
- Family composition
- Nature/extent of suspected abuse/neglect
- Any other pertinent information

Responding to the Victim
- Listen to what they are telling you – do not lead
- Reassure the child they are doing the right thing
- Keep YOUR feelings under control
- Use the child’s own words
- Don’t promise not to tell
- Tell the truth
- Be specific = let them know what will happen
- Assess immediate danger
- Be supportive

If you are still unsure to report remember, the greater amount of indicators means a greater chance that abuse is taking place.

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