



Early Childhood Centers as ■
creative and safe spaces!

Child Abuse

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CHILD ABUSE

A photograph of a young child with a bruise on their face, with a dog's head resting on their shoulder. The child is looking down with a sad expression. The background is a solid blue color.

**“So long as little children are
allowed to suffer, there is no
true love in this world”**

Duncan

Children Rights

- **There is clear evidence that child abuse is a global problem. It occurs in a variety of forms and is deeply rooted in cultural, economic and social practices.**
- **Before defining “child abuse” its crucial to get informed about “children’s rights” in the first place.**
- **According to the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) in Egypt, Egyptian children are a national priority.**

NCCM'S RIGHTS' BASED APPROACH (Convention on the Rights of the Child)

- **Non-discrimination (article 2)**
- **Best interests of the child (article 3)**
- **Life, survival and development (article 6)**
- **Respect of the views of the child (article 12)**

PRIORITIES

Right to Education

- **Access to quality, free, compulsory primary education.**
- **Non-Discrimination in access to education (gender gap).**

(Aims of Education: art. 29)

- **Right to leisure, recreation and cultural activities.**

Right to Health

- **Access to quality health services**
- **Rights of children with disabilities**
- **Adolescents and reproductive health knowledge**
- **Right to benefit from social security**
- **Right to an adequate standard of living**

Right to Special Protection

- **Protection from all forms of exploitation (economic, sexual).**
- **Violence against children (physical, psychological & sexual).**
- **Female Genital Mutilation & early marriage.**
- **Torture and deprivation of liberty for juvenile in conflict with the law**
- **Hazardous occupations.**
- **Smoking, substance abuse, and trafficking.**
- **Street children.**

Child Abuse

In 1999, the WHO Consultation on Child Abuse Prevention compared definitions of abuse from 58 countries and drafted the following definition:

“Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.”

Definition of Child Abuse

“The physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, negligent treatment, or maltreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a person who is responsible for the child’s welfare under circumstances which indicate that the child’s health or welfare is harmed or threatened.”

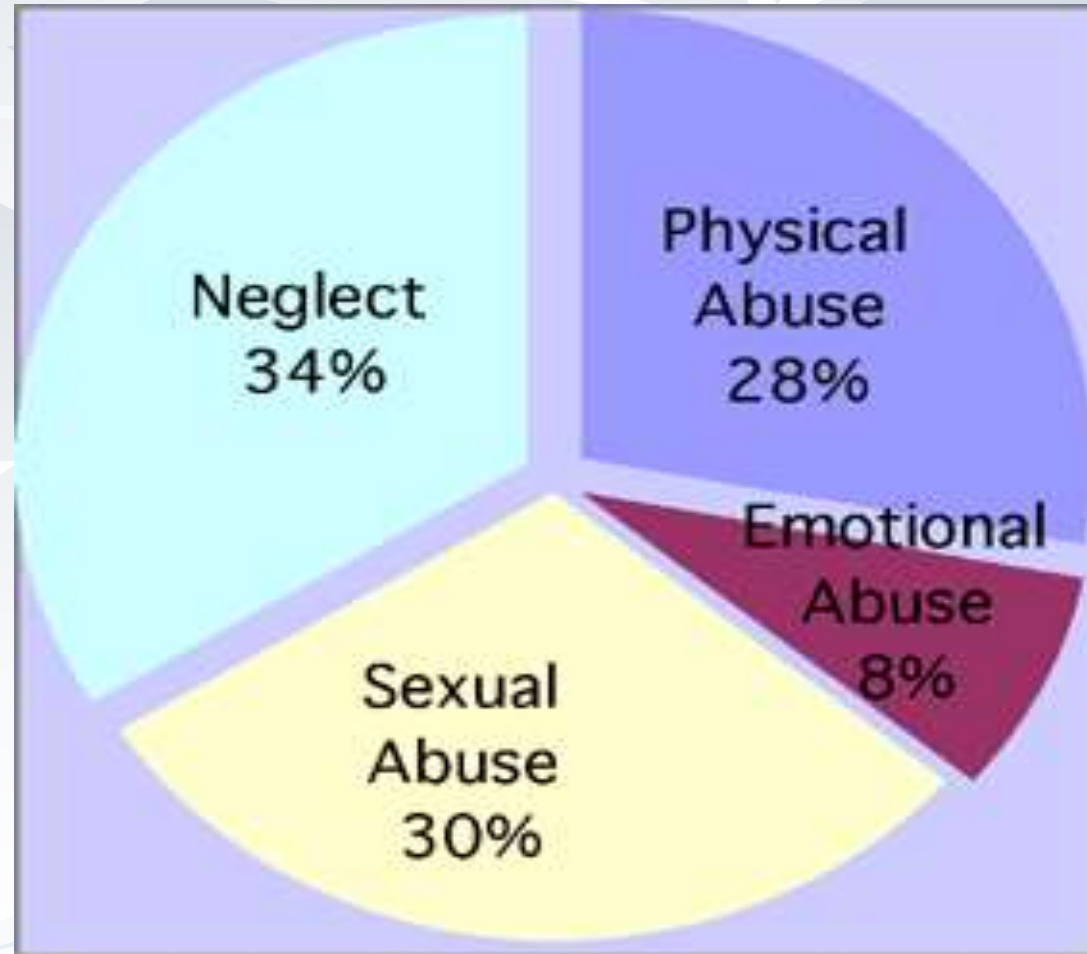
Child Welfare Act

Another Definition

“Any behavior directed toward a child that endangers or impairs a child’s physical or emotional health and development”

Types of Child Abuse

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse
- neglect



Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is any non-accidental injury to a child under the age of 18 by a parent or caretaker. These injuries may include beatings, shaking, burns, human bites, strangulation, or immersion in scalding water or others, with resulting bruises and welts, fractures, scars, burns, internal injuries or any other injuries.

Physical Abuse (cont.)

- The term “battered child syndrome” was coined to characterize the clinical manifestations of serious physical abuse in young children.
- This term is generally applied to children showing repeated and devastating injury to the skin, skeletal system or nervous system. It includes children with multiple fractures of different ages, head trauma and severe visceral trauma, with evidence of repeated infliction.
- Another form is the “The shaken infant”. Shaking is a prevalent form of abuse seen in very young children (less than 1 year). Most perpetrators of such abuse are males. Intracranial haemorrhages, retinal haemorrhages and chip fractures of the child’s extremities can result from very rapid shaking of an infant.

Corporal Punishment

- **Corporal punishment of children --- in the form of hitting, punching, kicking or beating -- is socially and legally accepted in most countries. In many, it is a significant phenomenon in schools and other institutions and in penal systems for young offenders.**

PSYCHOLOGICAL MALTREATMENT

Definition

- **Psychological Neglect** - the consistent failure of a parent or caretaker to provide a child with appropriate support, attention, and affection.
- **Psychological Abuse** - a chronic pattern of behaviors such as belittling, humiliating, and ridiculing a child.

Emotional Abuse

- **Emotional abuse includes the failure of a caregiver to provide an appropriate and supportive environment, and includes acts that have an adverse effect on the emotional health and development of a child.**
- **Such acts include restricting a child's movements, denigration, ridicule, threats and intimidation, discrimination, rejection and other nonphysical forms of hostile treatment.**

Neglect

- **Neglect refers to the failure of a parent to provide for the development of the child – where the parent is in a position to do so – in one or more of the following areas: health, education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter and safe living conditions.**
- **Neglect is thus distinguished from circumstances of poverty in that neglect can occur only in cases where reasonable resources are available to the family or caregiver.**

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Definition

Child sexual abuse is the exploitation of a child or adolescent for the sexual gratification of another person.

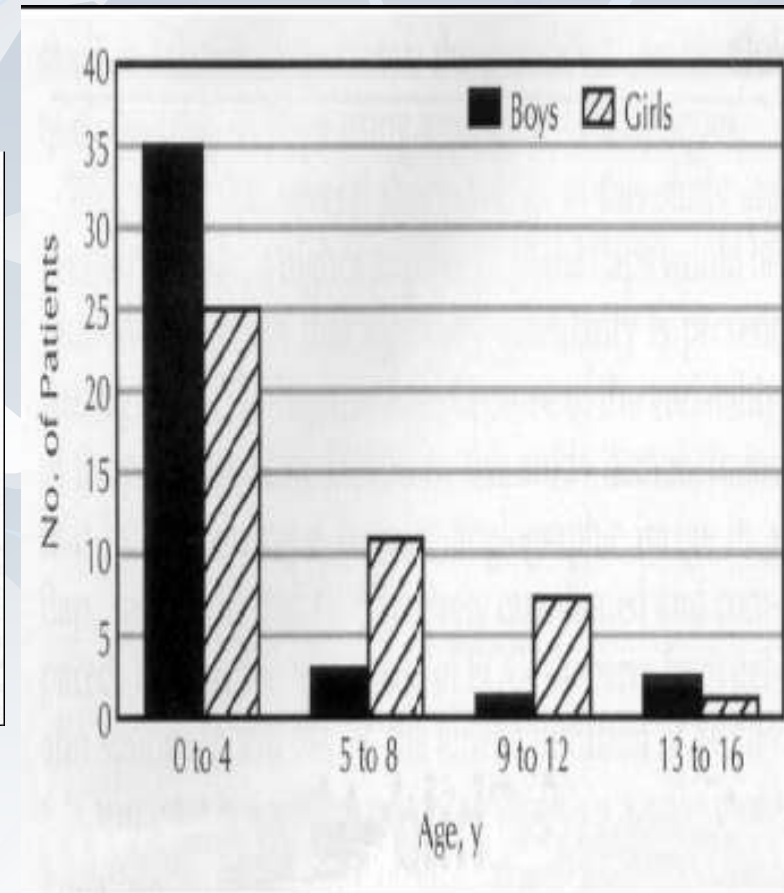
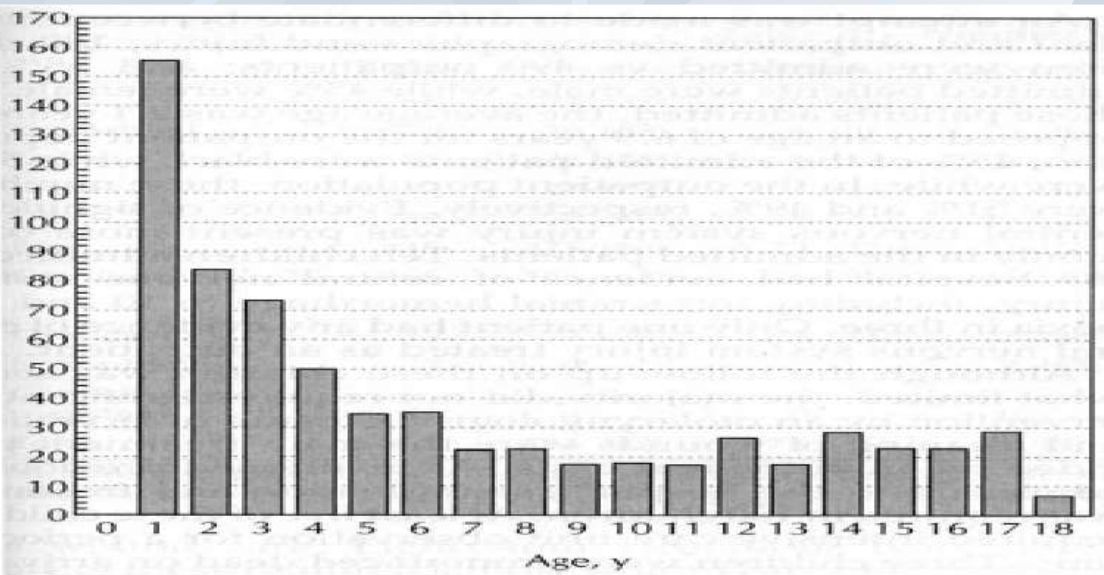
SEXUALLY ABUSIVE BEHAVIORS

- Voyeurism
- Fondling
- Child prostitution
- Child pornography
- Intercourse
- Sodomy
- Oral-genital stimulation
- Verbal stimulation
- Exhibitionism

Three Major Components of Child Abuse

Child
+
Care Giver
+
Stress
=
Child Abuse

Who are at Risk



- Abuse most common in children < 1 yr. old
- Girls more frequently abused at older age vs. boys

TABLE 2

Risk Factors for Child Abuse

Community/societal

- High crime rate
- Lack of or few social services
- High poverty rate
- High unemployment rate

Parent-related

- Personal history of physical or sexual abuse as a child
- Teenage parents
- Single parent
- Emotional immaturity
- Poor coping skills
- Low self-esteem
- Personal history of substance abuse
- Known history of child abuse

Parent-related (continued)

- Lack of social support
- Domestic violence
- Lack of parenting skills
- Lack of preparation for the extreme stress of having a new infant
- History of depression or other mental health problems
- Multiple young children
- Unwanted pregnancy
- Denial of pregnancy

Child-related

- Prematurity
- Low birth weight
- Handicap

The Extent of the Problem

■ Fatal abuse

- According to the World Health Organization, there were an estimated 570 000 deaths attributed to homicide among children under 15 years of age in 2000 around the world. Global estimates of child homicide suggest that infants and very young children are at greatest risk, and those who live in developing countries.

■ Non-fatal abuse

- According to the “WORLD REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND HEALTH” by WHO among children in Egypt, 37% reported being beaten or tied up by their parents and 16% reported physical injuries such as fractures, loss of consciousness or permanent disability as a result of being beaten or tied up.

Rates of harsh or moderate forms of physical punishment (WHO) WORLD REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND HEALTH (2002)

Type of punishment	Incidence (%)				
	Chile	Egypt	India ^a	Philippines	USA
Severe physical punishment					
Hit the child with an object (not on buttocks)	4	26	36	21	4
Kicked the child	0	2	10	6	0
Burned the child	0	2	1	0	0
Beat the child	0	25	— ^b	3	0
Threatened the child with a knife or gun	0	0	1	1	0
Choked the child	0	1	2	1	0
Moderate physical punishment					
Spanked buttocks (with hand)	51	29	58	75	47
Hit the child on buttocks (with object)	18	28	23	51	21
Slapped the child's face or head	13	41	58	21	4
Pulled the child's hair	24	29	29	23	— ^b
Shook the child ^c	39	59	12	20	9
Hit the child with knuckles	12	25	28	8	— ^b
Pinched the child	3	45	17	60	5
Twisted the child's ear	27	31	16	31	— ^b
Forced the child to kneel or stand in an uncomfortable position	0	6	2	4	— ^b
Put hot pepper in the child's mouth	0	2	3	1	— ^b

^a Rural areas.

^b Question not asked in the survey.

^c Children aged 2 years or older.

Rates of verbal or psychological punishment (WHO) WORLD REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND HEALTH (2002)

Verbal or psychological punishment	Incidence (%)				
	Chile	Egypt	India ^a	Philippines	USA
Yelled or screamed at the child	84	72	70	82	85
Called the child names	15	44	29	24	17
Cursed at the child	3	51	— ^b	0	24
Refused to speak to the child	17	48	31	15	— ^b
Threatened to kick the child out of the household	5	0	— ^b	26	6
Threatened abandonment	8	10	20	48	— ^b
Threatened evil spirits	12	6	20	24	— ^b
Locked the child out of the household	2	1	— ^b	12	— ^b

^a Rural areas.

^b Question not asked in the survey.

Parental beliefs and reasons for punishment

- Survey in **Egypt** showed: lying, disrespect, disobedience, low performance in school and destroying property are the main reasons for punishment (Youseff and Kamel, 1998)

Health Consequences of Child Abuse

Health consequences of child abuse

Physical

- Abdominal/thoracic injuries
- Brain injuries
- Bruises and welts
- Burns and scalds
- Central nervous system injuries
- Disability
- Fractures
- Lacerations and abrasions
- Ocular damage

Sexual and reproductive

- Reproductive health problems
- Sexual dysfunction
- Sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS
- Unwanted pregnancy

Health Consequences of Child Abuse (cont.)

Psychological and behavioural

Alcohol and drug abuse

Cognitive impairment

Delinquent, violent and other risk-taking behaviours

Depression and anxiety

Developmental delays

Eating and sleep disorders

Feelings of shame and guilt

Hyperactivity

Poor relationships

Poor school performance

Poor self-esteem

Post-traumatic stress disorder

Psychosomatic disorders

Suicidal behaviour and self-harm

Role of Family Physician in Child Abuse

Protect

Suspect

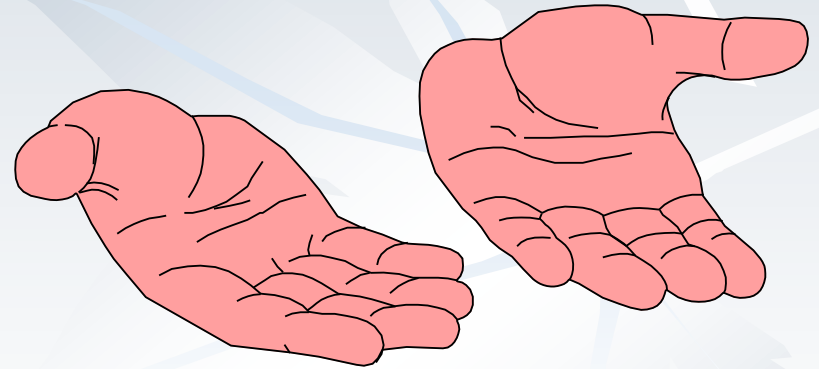
Inspect

Collect

Respect

Protect...

- ✉ Patient/family and team safety are paramount.
- ✉ Protect the life of the patient as well as as much evidence as possible.



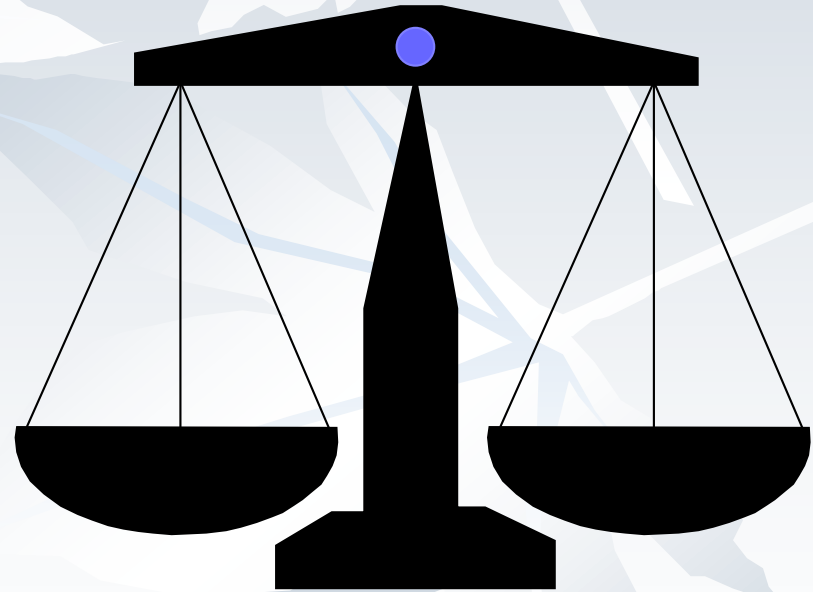
Suspect...

- ✉ Does the history fit what you are seeing—either injury or illness?
- ✉ Is this a repeat patient or family member of a repeat patient?
- ✉ Is there a history of family violence?



Collect...

- ✉ Collect as much evidence as possible, including...
 - physical and trace evidence
 - information



Respect...

- ✉ Respect the right to refuse
- ✉ Respect diversity
- ✉ Respect privacy



The Cycle of Abuse...

- ✉ Family violence
- ✉ Abuser-to abuser cycle
- ✉ Factors in altering the cycle of violence



Responsibilities to Report...

- ✉ Who must report...
- ✉ Deciding to report...

A report of suspected child abuse is a responsible attempt to protect a child.

Identifying Physical Abuse... By the Family Doctor

- ✉ Normal childhood development
- ✉ Conditions that may be confused with abuse
- ✉ Unintentional vs intentional injury

Recognizing Abuse Injuries...

- ✉ Skin Injuries
 - ✉ TEARS
- ✉ Human Bite Marks
- ✉ Hair Loss
- ✉ Falls
- ✉ Head, facial, oral injuries
- ✉ Shaken baby Syndrome

Human Bites

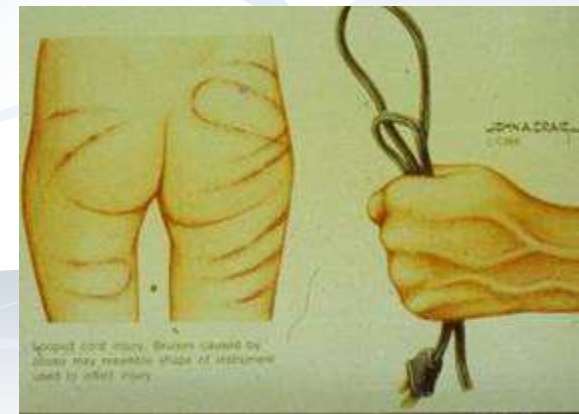
- ✉ Strongly suggest abuse
- ✉ Easily overlooked
- ✉ Location of bite marks on infants differ from sites on older children



Bruises

- ✉ Generally speaking:
 - ✉ fresh injury is red to blue
 - ✉ 1-3 days deep black or purple
 - ✉ 3-6 days color changes to green and then brown
 - ✉ 6-15 days: green to tan to yellow to faded, then disappears
- ✉ The younger the child the quicker the color resolves.

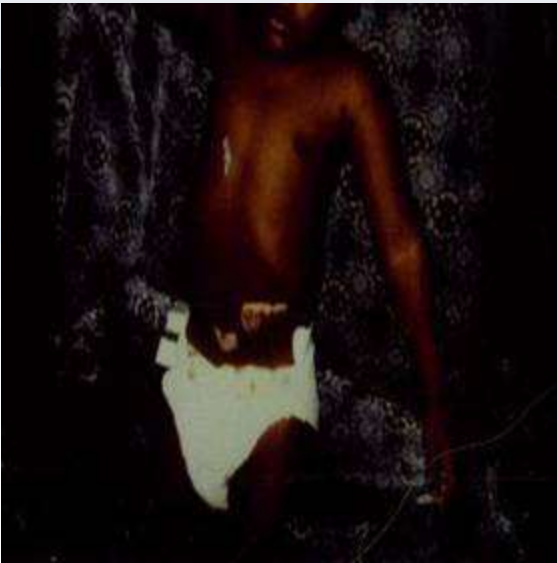
Bruises



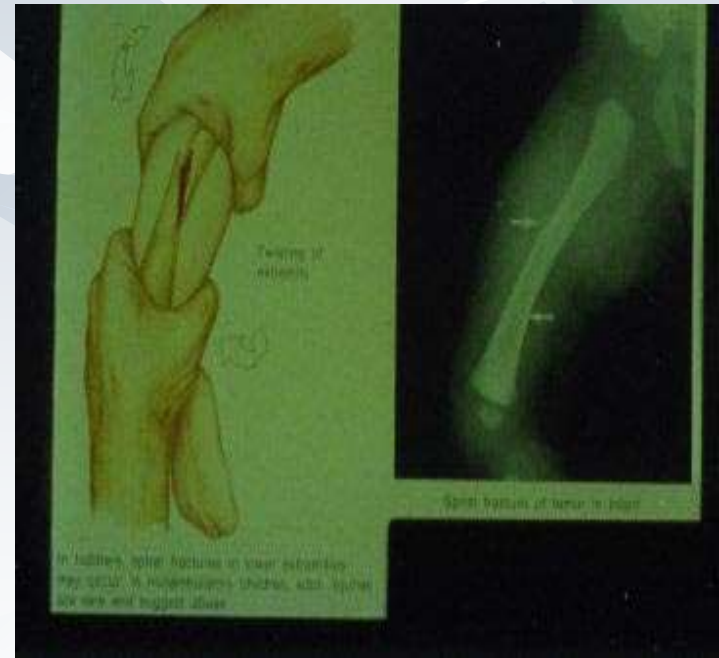
Burns

- ✉ Abusive Burn Patterns
 - ✉ Scald: Immersion & Splash Burns
 - ✉ Flexion Burns
 - ✉ Contact Burns
- ✉ “Pseudoabusive” Burns

Burns



Suspicious Fractures



Falls

- ✉ In most cases, falls cause a minor injury.
- ✉ If a child is reported to have had a routine fall but has what appear to be severe injuries, the inconsistency of the history with the injury indicates child abuse.



Head, Facial, Oral Injuries

- ✉ Head is a common area of injury.
- ✉ Approx. 50 % of physical abuse patients have head or facial injuries.
- ✉ Injuries to the sides of the face, ears, cheeks, and temple area are highly suspicious for abuse.
- ✉ Mouth/lip/teeth injuries



Indicators of Child Abuse (Discovered by Family Doctor)

Type of Abuse	Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
Physical	Unexplained bruises, welts, burns, fractures, or bald patches on scalp	Wary of adult contact, frightened of parents or afraid to go home, withdrawn or aggressive, moves uncomfortably, wears inappropriate clothing for weather
Sexual	Difficulty walking or sitting; torn or stained/blood underclothes; pain, itching, bruises, swelling in genital area; frequent urinary or yeast infections	Advanced sexual knowledge, promiscuity, sudden school difficulties, self-imposed social isolation, avoidance of physical contact or closeness, depression
Emotional	Speech or communicative disorder, delayed physical development, exacerbation of existing conditions, substance abuse	Habit disorders, antisocial or destructive behaviors, neurotic traits, behavior extremes, developmental delays
Neglect	Consistent hunger, poor hygiene, inappropriate dress, unattended medical problems, underweight, failure to thrive	Self-destructive behaviors, begging or stealing food, constant fatigue, assuming adult responsibilities or concerns, frequently absent or tardy, states no caretaker in home

Common Features of Successful Child Abuse Prevention Programs ■

- Strengthen family and community connections and support.
- Treat parents as vital contributors to their children's growth and development.
- Create opportunities for parents to feel empowered to act on their own behalf.
- Respect the integrity of the family.
- Enhance parents' capability to foster the optimal development of their children and themselves.
- Establish links with community support systems.
- Provide settings where parents and children can gather, interact, support and learn from each other.
- Enhance coordination and integration of services needed by families.
- Enhance community awareness of the importance of healthy parenting practices.

National Initiatives to Eliminate Child Abuse

■ PILOT PROJECTS

- “FGM Free Village Model” to eliminate the practice of FGM in 120 villages in Upper Egypt.
- “Protection and Rehabilitation of Child Labor” in selected squatter areas.
- “Empowerment of Adolescent Girls” focusing on reproductive health awareness and knowledge dissemination
- “Protection of Youth From Substance Abuse” to establish demand–reduction units and increase social awareness.
- “Protection of Children Against Delinquency” to effectuate family courts” and monitor its jurisdiction.
- “Protection of Street Children Against Drugs” through monitoring protection institutions and building capacities of police officers and social workers.
- “Promote the Culture of Child Rights” through raising awareness of school teachers with the child rights.

FGM

آلة لختان البنات



NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE ELIMINATION OF FGM

- Trigger behavioral change.**
- Enhance rights of the girl child with a focus on FGM.**
- Create NGO and youth leaders advocacy network.**
- Incorporate regulatory provisions that condemn FGM.**
- Implement a social marketing campaign and produce an FGM-Free Village model toolkit.**

أطفال الشوارع



NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR PROTECTION, REHABILITATION AND INTEGRATION OF STREET CHILDREN

Ensure all rights of street children through:

- Changing the community's negative perception.**
- Building a comprehensive database.**
- Capacity building for cadres dealing with street children.**
- Introducing legal amendments and strengthening enforcement mechanisms.**
- Supporting NGOs caring for street children from drug abuse, violence and exploitation.**
- Demonstrating vocational, health and psychological rehabilitation services.**
- Expanding the social net programs and direct services for poor families to eradicate root causes of the problem.**

JUVENILE JUSTICE



JUVENILE JUSTICE

- Ensure protection of rights of children in conflict with the law.**
- Define criminal responsibility and penalty in proportion to child age.**
- Initiate measures to protect children against delinquency.**
- Monitor juvenile courts effectiveness.**
- Promote physical and psychological rehabilitation**
- Establish family friendly courts.**



Thank You