

# Recognizing Child Abuse

Be aware of abuse,  
and take action when you  
suspect it or see it.

## Things to know:

- Many people think child abuse is limited to physical harm. In reality, child abuse includes: physical abuse; physical neglect; sexual abuse; and emotional/mental maltreatment.
- Most child abuse and neglect is not a one time event but usually occurs in a pattern over time.
- Many children are subject to more than one form of abuse.

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, contact your local department of social services or call the Virginia Department of Social Services  
**Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline**  
**1-800-552-7096** (Voice/TTY)

**It shouldn't hurt to be a child.**

