

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

It shouldn't hurt to be a kid....

- Child abuse is **physical** -- shaking, hitting, beating, burning, or biting a child.
- Child abuse is **emotional** -- constantly blaming or putting down a child; excessive yelling, shaming.
- Child abuse is **sexual** -- incest, any forced sexual activity, exposure to sexual stimulation not appropriate for the child's age.
- Child abuse is **neglect** -- a pattern of failure to provide for the child's physical needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, and medical care; a pattern of failure to provide for the child's emotional needs, such as affection, attention, and supervision.

It is legal in every state and on Fort Bragg to spank a child on the buttocks with a bare hand.

Any other discipline, such as a slap, hitting with an object or any kind of discipline that causes a mark, a bruise or an injury is abuse!

Every one of us can help stop child abuse

- Help out a parent under stress with a few hours of child care or assistance with other chores.
- Lend an ear to a parent or child in crisis.
- Support programs that offer child care, parent education, family counseling, and child safety.
- Call a Parental Stress program for resources and support.

Call us at 910-396-5521
Call 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)
or log onto
www.childhelp.org

If you suspect that a child has been abused:

- In cases of an immediate emergency, always call **911** for Law Enforcement intervention.
- Where the situation is not an emergency needing the police, reports should be immediately to:
 - Department of Social Services, at **910-323-1540** and the
 - Womack Medical Center Department of Social Work at **907-7869**
- Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline in the following areas:

What are the Consequences of Child Abuse?

- In an abusive environment, children are often expected to behave as if they are much older than they are.
- Children are often "punished" for behavior they are too young to control.
- Abusive parents do not know they have to teach the behavior they want the child to have. Punishing unwanted behavior is not enough.
- Parents and caretakers often abuse children in response to their own anger and unhappiness. It may have no relationship to what the child is doing at the time.
- Abused children
 - believe that they have no value.
 - believe that they cannot affect the world around them with good behavior.
 - feel angry and/or depressed.