



# District Student Services

April 2021

## Child Abuse Prevention Signs and Symptoms in a Classroom

The Florida Abuse Hotline accepts reports 24 hours a day and 7 days a week of known or suspected child abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

**1-800-962-2873**

### Sexual Abuse

Any sexual behavior (looking, showing, or touching) with a child to meet the adult's interest or sexual needs.

### Physical Abuse

Any behavior that hurts the child's body (kicking, punching, stabbing, beating, burning, or choking) or otherwise harming a child to cause physical injury.

### Psychological/Emotional Abuse

Any behavior pattern that impairs a child's sense of self-worth, emotional development, or mental well-being.

(kidshealth.org, 2021)

In 2018, the Children's Advocacy Centers in Florida served over 34,000 children who were victims of child abuse or neglect; 20,400 were females and 13,600 were males.



Click the link for activities



### Possible Signs and Symptoms of Abuse

- Have frequent bruises, especially in places students do not normally get bruises from play
- Have stories to explain injuries that do not make sense or keep changing
- Not wanting to go home
- Avoid being with the abuser
- Avoid being with others
- Show signs of emotional trauma, like fear, anger, or trouble relating to or trusting others
- Being sad or depressed
- Bullying others
- Self-harm such as cutting, hitting their head against a hard-object, or punching objects
- Having nightmares or trouble sleeping
- Acting out in class, difficulty paying attention or being hyperactive
- Using drugs

(CDC, 2021)

### Five Protective Factors

Be Resilient - the ability of parents to deal effectively with stress, adversity, or trauma.

Have Friends - relationships with family, friends, neighbors, or other community members.

Know How to Find Help - support and resources for the family during times of struggle and stress such as calling the school counselor or social worker.

Know How Children Grow - talk to medical and mental health professionals for assistance.

Help Kids Handle Their Feelings - social and emotional learning, which helps children properly label and understand different emotions in themselves and others.



(PreventChildAbuseNC.org)

Citrus County Schools Child Abuse and Neglect Reports		Accepted Reports Approximate	Total Reports Approximate
Quarter One	Elementary	60	93
	Middle	12	
	High	21	
Quarter Two	Elementary	76	113
	Middle	24	
	High	13	
Quarter Three	Elementary	71	128
	Middle	32	
	High	25	
Totals			334

### Accepted Florida Child Abuse Reports

August 2020 - February 2021

**105,628**

### Accepted Citrus County Child Abuse Reports

August 2020 - February 2021

**1,253**

### Resources for the Prevention of Child Abuse

Resource	Description	Grade Level	Educator	Family
<a href="#">Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers</a>	Infographics explaining the relationship between child maltreatment and child/adolescent well-being.	PK+	X	X
<a href="#">Stop It Now!</a>	Resources for parents and caregivers on child safety.	PK+	X	X
<a href="#">National Child Abuse Prevention Outreach Toolkit</a>	Free tools to engage school community in supporting children, youth, and families.	PK+	X	
<a href="#">Children's Trust Fund Alliance</a>	An article on strengthening families and their protective factors.	PK+	X	X
<a href="#">Prevent Child Abuse America</a>	A leading champion for all children across the United States.	PK+	X	X
<a href="#">Kids Health</a>	An article on child abuse; definitions, signs, tips, and strategies for assistance for parents and children.	PK+	X	X
<a href="#">Florida Department of Education</a>	Resources for educators and families about child abuse prevention.	PK+	X	X
<a href="#">Florida Department of Children and Families</a>	Child abuse definitions, Florida Statutes, and reporting information	PK+	X	X
<a href="#">Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention</a>	Trauma-informed care for children exposed to violence - Tips for Teachers	PK+	X	

Ms. Kit Humbaugh  
Director of District Student Services  
[humbaughk@citruschools.org](mailto:humbaughk@citruschools.org)  
(352) 527-0090 ext. 6301

Mrs. Jennifer Greco  
Coordinator of District Student Services  
[grecoj@citruschools.org](mailto:grecoj@citruschools.org)  
(352) 527-0090 ext. 6301



Mr. Mayol Gutierrez  
Behavior Teacher on Special Assignment  
[gutierrezm@citruschools.org](mailto:gutierrezm@citruschools.org)  
(352) 527-0090 ext. 6310

Mrs. Mindy Melito  
Program Specialist for Behavioral Health & Social Emotional Learning  
[melitom@citruschools.org](mailto:melitom@citruschools.org)  
(352) 527-0090 ext. 6311