Basic Health and Safety Training Topic 10 (Part 1): SHAKE Baby SYNDROME & ABusive HEAD TRAUMA

Slide 2 - In this section we will discuss the following topics:

- Child Abuse
- Concussions
- Head Trauma
- Signs & Symptoms
- Environmental Safety and
- Documentation

Slide 3 - A provider, operator, employee, substitute, volunteer, individual residing on the premises of the program, or other individual connected with the child care program may not subject a child to abuse, neglect, mental injury, or injurious treatment.

An operator or employee who has reason to believe that a child has been:

Abused or neglected, within the program or outside of the child care program, shall report that belief directly to the protective services unit of the local department or to a law enforcement agency, as required under Maryland law;

All staff are to monitor all children daily for signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect and instruct staff about their legal obligations to report suspected child abuse or neglect directly to the local department or the appropriate law enforcement agency.

You must post, near each telephone in the facility, the telephone numbers of the Child Protective Services unit of the local department and the appropriate law enforcement agency.

In a child care center, an operator may not require an employee to report through the operator or director, rather than directly to the local department or a law enforcement agency, when the employee has reason to believe that a child has been abused or neglected.

It is important to recognize the signs of child abuse and neglect to reduce the impact of trauma on childhood well-being. The presence of a single sign does not mean that child abuse is occurring but it is important to observe and determine if other signs appear or if a combination of signs are occurring. Child abuse and neglect can have lifelong implications that affect a child’s ability to cope with past experiences and may cause cognitive and emotional difficulties. Childhood trauma can negatively affect the nervous and immune systems of children putting them at risk for health problems as adults.

As a staff member of child care program, you are a mandated reporter and must immediately notify the appropriate authorities by telephone and give all information required when any form of child abuse or neglect is suspected.

A written report shall be made no later than 48 hours after the contact, examination, attention, or treatment that caused the individual to believe that the child had been subjected to abuse or neglect.

A mandated reporter will be asked to provide the following information when making a report:

- The name, age, and home address of the child
• The name and home address of the child's parent or other person who is responsible for the child’s care
• The whereabouts of the child
• The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect of the child, including any evidence or information available to the reporter concerning possible previous instances of abuse or neglect
• Any other information that might be helpful to determine the cause of the suspected abuse or neglect and the identity of any individual responsible for the abuse or neglect

Signs of child abuse may include:

• The child showing sudden behavioral changes or changes in school performance
• The child has not received care for physical or medical problems that have been brought to the parent’s attention.
• The child has learning issues or difficulty concentrating that cannot be attributed to a specific physical or psychological cause
• If the child is always watchful as though preparing for something bad to happen
• If the child lacks adult supervision
• If the child is overly compliant, passive, or withdrawn
• If the child comes to school or other activities early, stays late, and does not want to go home
• If the child is reluctant to be around a particular person or
• If the child discloses maltreatment

• If the parent or guardian denies the existence of or blames the child for the child’s problems in school or at home
• If the parent or guardian asks teachers or other caregivers to use harsh physical discipline if the child misbehaves
• If the parent or guardian sees the child as entirely bad, worthless, or burdensome
• If the parent or guardian demands a level of physical or academic performance that the child cannot achieve
• If the parent or guardian looks primarily to the child for care, attention, and satisfaction of the parents emotional needs
• Or Shows little concern for the child

If The PARENT and CHILD:
• Rarely touch or look at each other
• Consider their relationship entirely negative or
• State that they do not like each other
• Than these are just some of the signs that you may encounter and it is important to pay attention to other behaviors that seem unusual or concerning.

Types of Abuse include Physical Abuse, Neglect, Sexual Abuse and Emotional or Psychological Abuse

Neglect is the failure of a parent, guardian, or other caregiver to provide for a child’s basic needs. This may include failure to provide necessary food, shelter and/or appropriate supervision. The failure to provide necessary medical or mental health treatment is neglect. Failure to educate a child or to address special education needs is neglect. Inattention to a child’s emotional needs, failure to provide psychological care or the permitting of a child to use alcohol or other drugs is neglect.
If the child:

- is frequently absent from school
- begs or steals food or money
- lacks needed medical or dental care or glasses
- lacks sufficient clothing for the weather
- abuses alcohol or other drugs
- states that there is no one at home to provide care or
- The adult appears to be indifferent to the child

These may be signs of neglect.

It is recommended that you read the Child Abuse, Neglect, and Mental Injury resource Guide found at the link on your screen after completion of this training.

**Slide 4** - Physical abuse is non-accidental physical injury such as minor bruises, severe fractures or death as a result of punching, kicking, biting, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, burning, or hitting with a hand, stick, or other object that is inflicted by a parent, caregiver, or other person who has responsibility for the child. Such injury is considered abuse regardless of whether the caregiver intended to hurt the child. Physical discipline such as spanking is not considered abuse as long as it is reasonable and causes no bodily injury to the child.

**SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE MAY INCLUDE:**

- The child has unexplained burns, bites, bruises, broken bones or black eyes
- The child has fading bruises or other marks noticeable after an absence from school or child care
- The child seems frightened of the parents or guardians and protests or cries when it is time to go home
- The child shrinks at the approach of adults
- The child reports injury by a parent or another caregiver
- The child abuses animals or pets
- If the parent or caregiver provides conflicting, unconvincing or no explanation for a child's injury or provides an explanation that is not consistent with the injury.

**Slide 5** - Psychological abuse is a pattern of behavior that impairs a child’s emotional development of sense of self-worth. This may include constant criticism, threats, or rejection as well as withholding support, love, or guidance. Emotional abuse can be difficult to prove however; emotional abuse is almost always present when other types of abuse are identified.

Signs may include:

- The child shows extremes in behavior, such as overly compliant or demanding behavior, extreme passivity or aggression
- The child is either inappropriately adult (parenting other children) or inappropriate infantile (frequently rocking or head-banging for example)
- The child is delayed in physical or emotional development
- The child has attempted suicide
- The child Reports a lack of attachment to the parent
- The parent is unconcerned about the child and refuses to consider offers of help for the child’s issues
- The parent constantly blames, belittles or berates the child

**Slide 6** - Sexual abuse includes activities by a parent or a caregiver such as fondling a child’s genitals, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure, and exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials.

Signs of sexual abuse may include, when the child:

- Has difficulty walking or sitting
- Suddenly refuses to change for gym or participant in physical activities
- Reports nightmares or bed wetting
- Experiences sudden changes in appetite
- Demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior
- Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease especially if under the age of 14
- Runs away
- Reports sexual abuse by a parent or another caregiver
- Attaches very quickly to strangers or new adults in the environment
- If the parent or caregiver is unduly protective of the child or severely limits the child’s contact with other children especially of the opposite sex