

# Preventing Child Neglect

**1-800-CHILDREN**  
**( 2 4 4 - 5 3 7 3 )**

Confidential helpline of support, encouragement,  
information and local referrals for parents and caregivers.



**Prevent Child Abuse**  
Kentucky

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PREVENT CHILD ABUSE  
**KENTUCKY**



When compared to physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse, neglect occurs much more frequently. Sixty to seventy percent of all maltreatment combined is because of neglect.

## Ask Yourself . . .

1. Is this situation safe? Y N
2. Am I exposing my child to any risks? Y N
3. Given my child's age and abilities, am I providing enough supervision? Y N
4. Do I know the person I am leaving my child with well enough to trust them to make good decisions? Y N
5. Can an accident happen in this situation? Y N
6. What can I do to eliminate the risk of neglect? Y N

*When answering these questions, know there are resources and help available. Call 1-800-CHILDREN and learn about resources available in your local community that will help you to keep your child healthy and safe.*

Visit [www.pcaky.org](http://www.pcaky.org) or call  
1-800-CHILDREN for more information.  
(244-5373)



Your call can protect a child.  
Call 1-800-CHILDREN to find  
(244-5373)  
out how you can help.

Neglect can also have very serious consequences for children. Most obviously and tragically, neglect is a contributing cause to approximately 50% of all maltreatment deaths.

The failure to provide adequate supervision, nutrition, support, nurturing and education can have life-long consequences for children. This is especially true for younger children. Research in brain development shows failure to provide appropriate care can negatively affect the life of a child.

Neglect is more than an event or behavior. It is generally a pattern of lacking or dangerous child-rearing practices. This results in the child not receiving age-appropriate care, clothing, supervision, shelter, food, medical treatment,

and education. Neglect may not produce visible signs, and it usually occurs over a period of time. Neglect is often not the result of an intentional act by a parent or caretaker. More often, it is the result of a lack of parental knowledge, skills, support or resources. Poverty does not cause neglect. However, poverty can contribute to the likelihood of neglect occurring.

Neglect can be prevented. Because neglect often involves unplanned acts of oversight, there are steps that can be taken to prevent neglect. When given support, education, and resources, parents are often better able to meet their children's needs.

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but how you can help.



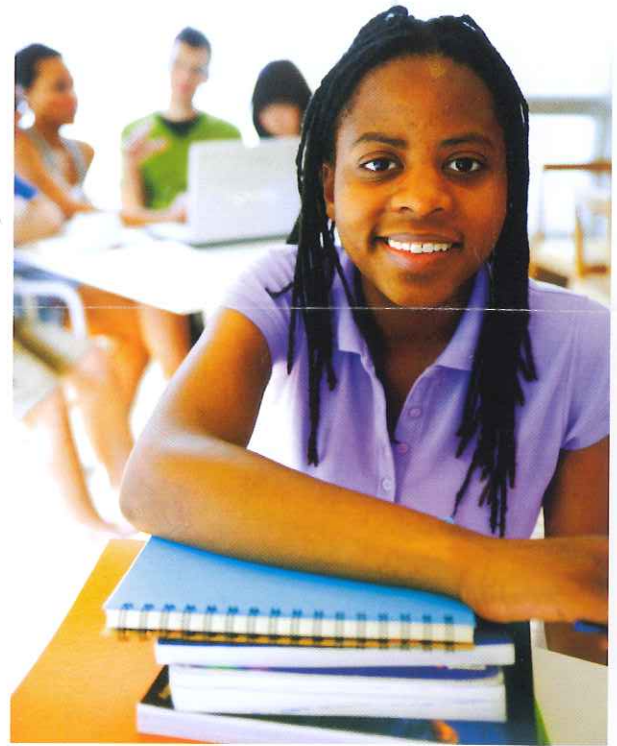
## Neglect is...

- Failure to meet basic needs of life (food, shelter, clothing, etc.).
- Failure to provide appropriate supervision.
- Failure to see children attend school.
- Failure to seek appropriate medical treatment.
- Failure to provide a safe environment free from dangers, such as drug or alcohol abuse and domestic violence.
- Failure to provide appropriate childcare.

Neglect comes in many different forms, but it CAN be prevented.

## Ways you can prevent neglect...

- Use resources such as food banks or Community Action Centers to assist families during difficult times.
- Never leave young children alone or unsupervised. Children need to be watched at all times. Never leave young children alone in the car, outdoors or near water (pools, bathtubs and other bodies of water). Accidents can happen in a matter of seconds.
- Help children get to school daily. If needed, seek assistance from the Family Resource or Youth Services Center or other community resources. Keeping kids in school helps to make sure some of their basic needs are being met.
- See your doctor and dentist regularly. Regular care prevents bigger problems. Contact your local Department for Community Based Services to see if your child is eligible for K-Chip (insurance that pays for medical and dental visits) or your local Health Department regarding your medical needs.
- Don't expose kids to fighting, drugs or alcohol abuse. They can get hurt! Call 1-800-CHILDREN for local resources that can help with these issues.
- Don't leave your children with people you don't know or trust. You can call your local childcare council or 1-800-CHILDREN to seek assistance with finding and paying for childcare.



## Signs of neglect of children...

- Low weight for age and/or failure to thrive for no medical reason.
- Untreated sores, severe diaper rash, urine scalds and/or significant dental decay.
- Poor standards of hygiene (i.e. child consistently unwashed).
- Children not adequately supervised for their age.
- Hunger and scavenging or stealing food and focus on basic survival.
- Extended stays at school, public places, and other homes.
- Longs for or indiscriminately seeks adult affection.
- Poor school attendance.
- Emotionally withdrawn.
- Permitted alcohol and other drug abuse.
- Inadequate clothing, especially in winter.

## Child neglect can lead to . . .

- A diagnosis of "Failure to Thrive"
- Developmental delays
- Language delays
- Malnourishment
- Anxiety
- Attachment disorders
- Depression
- Social problems
- Problems with attention
- Skin infections
- Tooth decay
- Gum disease
- Excessive fear
- Inability to trust
- Trouble in school
- Low self-esteem

## How to report . . .

Call the Abuse Hotline at  
1-877-KYSAFE1 (1-877-597-2331),  
or in an emergency, call  
your local police.



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