The Classroom May Be Empty, but Our Kids Still Need You More Than Ever

REPORTING ABUSE DURING COVID-19

While students are not in school, you still play a vital role in ensuring their safety during these trying times. As members of the education community and as mandated reporters, remember that by making a report, you are not only ensuring the child's safety, you are also providing help and support to the family. Remain a supportive, caring adult in their lives.

You May Be the Only Person to Act. If it does not look safe, sound safe, or feel safe – Report.

"Abuse" means any willful or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual abuse, injury, or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired. Within the context of the definition of "harm," the term "neglects the child" means that the parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare fails to supply the child with adequate food, clothing, shelter, or health care, although financially able to do so or although offered financial or other means to do so. (F.S. 39.01)

What you can do

- Check in with children regularly
- Encourage children to ask questions
- Take notice of changes in the child's behavior and appearance
- Report concerns

How to Report Abuse

Be prepared to provide specific descriptions of the incident(s) or circumstances contributing to the risk of harm.

Call

800-962-2873

Florida Relay 711

TTY: 800-955-8771

Report Online

https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us

Areas of Concerns

- Lack of attendance on virtual sessions
- Avoidance/lack of contact after numerous attempts to reach the family
- If a child communicates they feel unsafe
- A child in a dangerous environment
- Significant change in a mood/behavior

Florida HEALTH

Florida Department of Education fldoe.org

Florida Department of Children and Families MyFLFamilies.com