

DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS ...

Are the Children Safe at Home?

SERVICE PROVIDERS



Coaches, pastors, family-service and behavioral-health providers may be the only outside adult contact some kids have. It's important to visit the children and families you know and work with. Ask them how they're doing — by phone, FaceTime, Zoom, or a porch visit at an appropriate distance. Let them know they're not alone.

We need YOU ... to check on the children.

Reporting child abuse and neglect is more important than ever.

Ask how they're doing. How is the family getting on with all of the children at home? Do they need anything? Do they know where to get help? Ask to see the kids, and note if they look scared, neglected or hurt. Notice if the parents seem angry or overwhelmed. If something does not look safe, sound safe or feel safe ... report it. You can leave an anonymous tip, and the county will follow up on your call. You may be the only person to act.

Questions to ask the children:

- How's everyone getting along today?
- Are you worried about anything?
- What are you doing for fun?

Questions to ask the parents:

- Is everyone okay?
- Can you get everything you need?
- Do you need any help right now?

LEARN THE SIGNS A CHILD IS NOT SAFE

PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Child seems frightened of the caregiver.
- Child has burns, bites, broken bones, bruising, black eyes, or complaints of pain.
- Caregiver offers no explanation of a child's injury, or blames the child's behavior.

SEXUAL ABUSE

- Child attaches quickly to strangers or new adults.
- Child shows unusual knowledge or behavior for their age.
- Child has difficulty walking or sitting.
- An adult inappropriately touches a child, watches pornography with a child, or says sexual things to a child.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Child shows extremes in behavior, or is overly aggressive or compliant.
- Child seems emotionally unattached to caregiver and others.
- Caregiver blames, belittles or berates the child and refuses to help the child.

NEGLECT

- Child begs or steals food, has very poor hygiene, or says no one at home provides care.
- Child uses alcohol or other drugs.
- Highly stressful family situations, or adults in the home abusing alcohol or drugs.
- Unlocked weapons or guns in the home.

If you suspect it, report it.

This is a time for us all to help each other. If you have any concerns for a child or a family, call the hotline and leave an anonymous tip. Help is available!

HOTLINE 1-800-932-0313

To connect a family in need with resources:

Lehigh County 610-782-3200

Northampton County 610-252-9060

If you suspect immediate danger, call 911.



Healing Trauma. Restoring Hope.

United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley



Visit www.UnitedWayGLV.org/GetHelp for links to food and shelter resources, baby essentials and more.