

Kids are Kids

Keeping them safe is up to all of us



In Jefferson County in 2019'

authorities confirmed that kids experienced the following types of abuse:

199

kids experienced physical abuse

52

kids experienced sexual abuse

2,214

kids were neglected

16

kids died or nearly died due to physical abuse or neglect

However, we know that not all child abuse gets reported to authorities, and more children experienced abuse or neglect than these numbers reflect.

But the good news is that intervention works. We know that services to families, relative caregivers, and quality foster care all work to keep kids safe.

BE AWARE OF THE *Warning Signs* OF CHILD ABUSE



PHYSICAL ABUSE

Look for **any bruising on a baby** who is not yet pulling up and taking steps; **bruising to the ears, neck, torso, buttocks, or genitals** of any child under four years; **unexplained injuries** on children of any age



SEXUAL ABUSE

Look for an **increase in nightmares** and/or other **sleeping difficulties, withdrawn behavior, angry outbursts, anxiety,** and **not wanting to be alone with a particular individual(s).**



FEAR OF TELLING

Children are afraid to tell about their abuse because they **feel ashamed, don't want the abuser to hurt them, don't want to cause stress** for their caregivers, or **don't want their abuser to go to jail.**

KIDS ARE *Not Little Adults*



Crying is normal

The "terrible twos" will pass

Potty training takes patience

Hitting and yelling don't work



Founded By



SOURCE: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Community Based Services.
NOTES: Data on physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect reflect calendar year 2019, while the fatality/near fatality data reflect state fiscal year 2019. Data are subject to change as cases are closed.

Together We Can Prevent Child Abuse

Talk to Your Community

Talk to other adults about abuse to help build awareness and influence others' choices about child safety.

Check that children's programs **require criminal background checks, personal interviews, and professional recommendations** for all adults who work with children.

Meet and greet your neighbors and maintain relationships with family and friends. Strong, safe communities are important support systems for our families and children.

Offer to Help

Volunteer and take part in community activities that serve children.

If you have experience caring for children, **offer to watch the children of your friends, family, and neighbors** when they need a break or seem frustrated.

Reduce or prevent isolated, one-on-one situations between children and adults or older youth to help reduce the risk of sexual abuse.

Talk to Your Kids

Make sure your child knows **the difference between "okay" and "not okay" touches**.

Teach children that once they can bathe and use the restroom on their own **they should not accept such help from adults and older children**.

Educate children about **the difference between good secrets and bad secrets**. A surprise party is a good secret because it isn't kept for long. A secret that they are told to keep forever is not okay.



If you see something, say something.

REPORT ANY SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT
BY CALLING 1-877-KYSAFE1 OR VISIT REPORTITKY.ORG