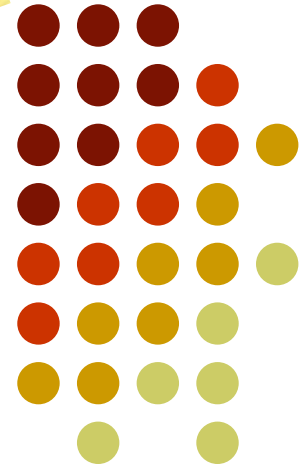
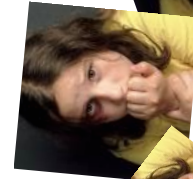


# *Child Abuse*



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Senior Lecturer,  
Consultant in Forensic Medicine,  
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# *Objectives of this lecture*



- *To define the term 'Child Abuse'.*
- *Gain knowledge about different types of child abuse.*
- *To gain knowledge about features of abuse.*
- *To know laws related to child abuse in Sri Lanka.*
- *To understand the management of abuse – medico legal aspects.*
- *To develop the ability in writing reports.*
- *Develop the ability in giving evidence.*



*It has been nearly 60 years since “the battered-child syndrome” was first described, in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Despite an increased alertness to physical abuse as a cause of childhood injury and growing awareness of other types of child victimization such as sexual abuse, we still understand very little about the epidemiology of child maltreatment. Although child abuse is often described as an important public health problem, research into its causes and prevention has been seriously lacking.*

*Every child deserves the opportunity to grow up healthy and safe, and we should have no greater responsibility than the protection of our children against abuse and victimization. Abuse makes victims of all of us; but for a child, especially, it steals the blessing of innocence, replacing it with fear and hurt that can damage young lives and take a lifetime from which to recover.*





- *Child abuse is both shocking and commonplace. Child abusers inflict physical, sexual, and emotional trauma on defenceless children every day. The scars can be deep and long-lasting. Unfortunately, the more subtle forms of child abuse such as neglect and emotional abuse can be even more traumatizing than violent physical abuse.*



*Children often don't tell about abuse because they have been threatened into keeping silent or made to feel ashamed and guilty.*

*'He said he'd kill me if I told anyone.'*



- *Some people think that children are only abused by strangers, but sometimes the person who has abused you is a friend of your parents or even a family member, like an uncle or auntie, or even a parent.*

# *What is child abuse?*



- *There are many definition but a definition which is general and include every possible aspects is better.*
- *‘Acts of commission omissions leading to actual or potential damage to health and development and exposure to unnecessary suffering’*
- *‘Anything which individuals, institutions, or processes do (acts) or fails (omission) to do which directly or indirectly harms children or damages the prospects of safe and healthy development into adulthood’*



# *Types of abuse*



- *Physical abuse*
- *Sexual abuse.*
- *Child labour.*
- *Neglect – deprivation of food, psychological and shelter*
- *Psychosocial & emotional.*
- *Manhausen 's syndrome by proxy*
- *Intentional poisoning.*
- *Peadophilia*

# *Related laws – in Sri Lanka*



- *The sections of the Penal Code*
  - *286A – obscene publication, exhibition using children*
  - *308 - exposure and abandonment of child below 12 yrs.*
  - *308A - cruelty to children*
  - *345 - sexual harassment*
  - *360A - procurement of children for illicit intercourse*
  - *360B - Sexual exploitation*
  - *360C - trafficking in children*
  - *363 - rape*
  - *364A - incest*
  - *365 - unnatural offences*
  - *365A - acts of gross indecency*
  - *385B - Grave sexual abuse*

# *What are the causes of child abuse?*



- *Why would someone abuse a defenceless child? What kind of person abuses a child? Not all child abuse is deliberate or intended. Several factors in a person's life may combine to cause them to abuse a child:*
- ***Stress**, including the stress of caring for children, or the stress of caring for a child with a disability, special needs, or difficult behaviours.*
- ***Lack of nurturing qualities** necessary for caring for a child.*
- ***Difficulty controlling anger.***
- ***Personal history of being abused.***
- ***Isolation from the family or community.***
- ***Physical or mental health problems, such as depression and anxiety.***
- ***Alcohol or drug abuse.***
- ***Personal problems** such as marital conflict, unemployment, or financial difficulties*



- *There are 3 different kinds/causes of abuse:*

*Parental causes*

*Ecological causes*

*Child problems*

# *Parental causes*



- *Background of emotional deprivation*
- *Unwanted pregnancy*
- *Isolation and lack of support*
- *Patriarchal family structure*
- *Cycle of violence (parents who were abused children themselves often end up abusing their own children)*
- *Discipline versus Abuse (where parents can't tell the difference)*
- *Blurred boundaries (where there is no clear boundary set by the parents between child and parent)*

# *Ecological causes*



- *Poverty*
- *Overcrowding*
- *Problems in the marriage*
- *Abuse of substances (drugs, alcohol etc.)*

# *Child problems*



- *Handicapped child*
- *Unrealistic expectations*
- *Latch key children (children who have to come home to an empty house)*
- *Weak bond between mother and child*



- *No one has been able to predict which of these factors will cause someone to abuse a child. A significant factor is that abuse tends to be **intergenerational** – those who were abused as children are more likely to repeat the act when they become parents or caretakers.*





- *In addition, many forms of child abuse arise from ignorance, isolation, or benign neglect. Sometimes a cultural tradition leads to abuse. For example, such beliefs as:*
- *Children are property.*
- *Parents (especially males) have the right to control their children in any way they wish.*
- *Children need to be toughened up to face the hardships of life.*
- *Girls need to be genitally mutilated to assure virginity and later marriage*



*Various cultures have different cultural norms with respect to appropriate behavior toward children.*

*Some cultures are more "touchy" than others.*

*Some believe in physical discipline to an extreme.*

*There are cultures in which certain things that are done to children out of caring create the appearance of child abuse.*

*In some cultures, rituals are performed. These same rituals may be unacceptable in the country in which you live.*



- *Caffey's landmark article of 1946 noted an association between healing long-bone fractures and chronic subdural hematomas in infancy, and it was the first to draw attention to physical abuse as a unifying etiology. In 1962, Caffey and Kempe et al proposed manhandling and violent shaking as mechanisms of injury and emphasized the acute and long-term sequelae of abuse as serious public health problems. Since these early reports, investigators have more clearly defined the pathophysiology of abusive injuries.*

# *What is physical child abuse?*



*Physical abuse of children is defined as excessive intentional physical injury to a child or excessive corporal punishment of a child. Torture, beatings, and assault of children are obvious forms of physical abuse.*



- *Physical child abuse is an injury resulting from physical aggression. Even if the injury was not intended, the act is considered physical abuse.*  
*The injury from physical child abuse may be the result of:*
- *Beating, slapping, or hitting.*
- *Pushing, shaking, kicking, or throwing.*
- *Pinching, biting, choking, or hair-pulling.*
- *Burning with cigarettes, scalding water, or other hot objects.*
- *Severe physical punishment.*



## *Alternatives to physical violence*

*Ample evidence exists that the following forms of punishment are workable solutions that eliminate the need for any physical forms of punishment: Timeouts*

*Sending children to their rooms*

*Taking away privileges of various types*

*Denying children enjoyable activities*

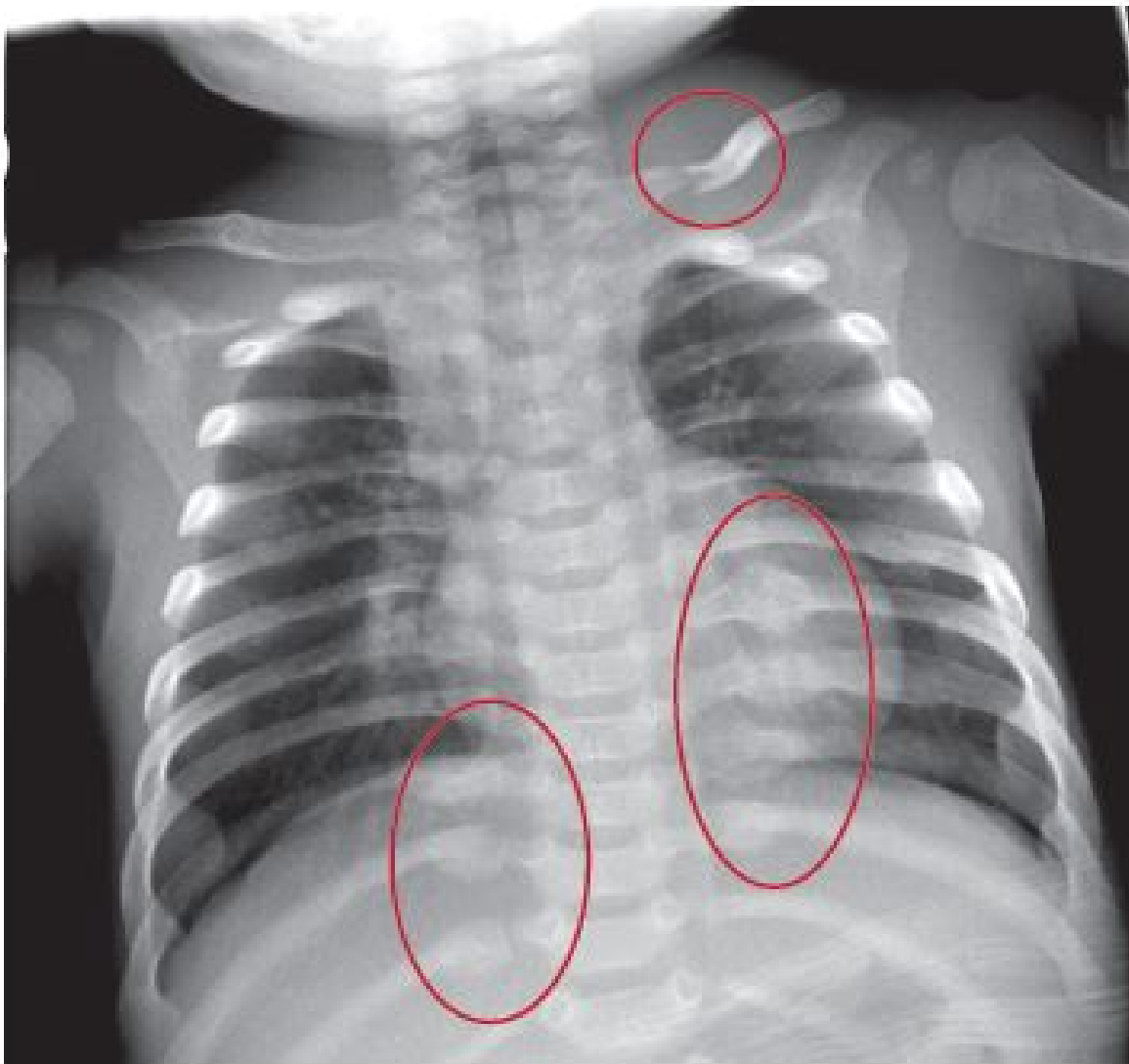
***Rib Fracture. Image shows multiple bilateral rib fractures that are healing. Note the callus formation at the posterior and lateral aspects of the ribs and the healing left clavicular fracture with callus formation.***



***Classic metaphyseal lesion (CML), as represented by a corner fracture of the lateral aspect of the humeral metaphysis.***

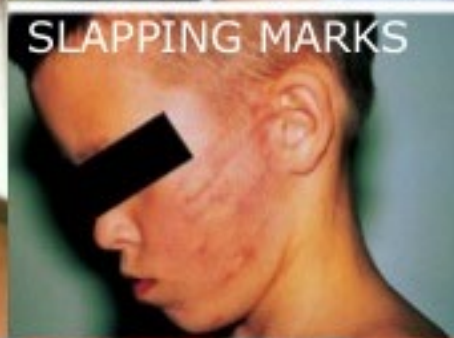






**Figure 2. Multiple bilateral posterior rib fractures that are healing can be seen in an infant who also has an acute left clavicle fracture.**

# Face injuries





Typical bruise left by gag

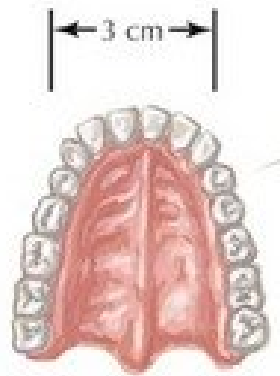


Blistering and edema in acute binding injury

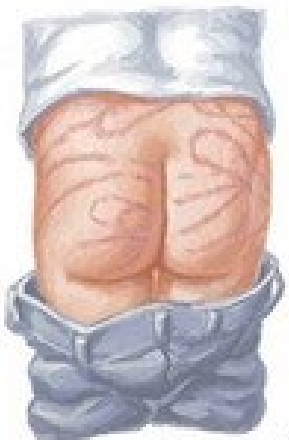
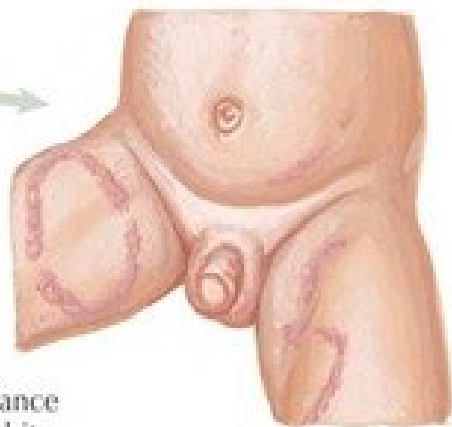


Pigment changes in chronic binding injury

JOHN A. CRAIG MD



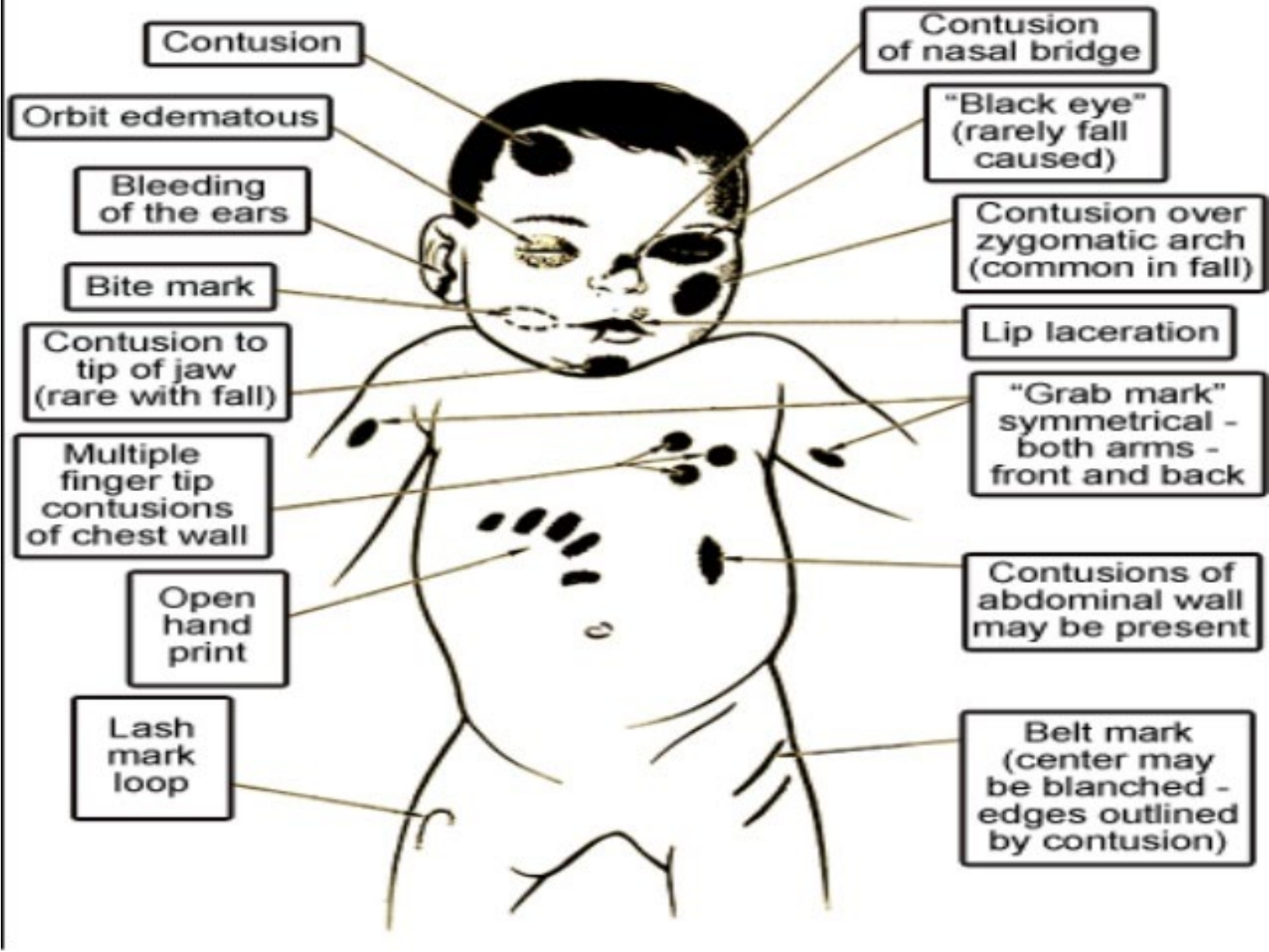
Bite pattern. 3 cm or greater distance between canines indicates adult bite



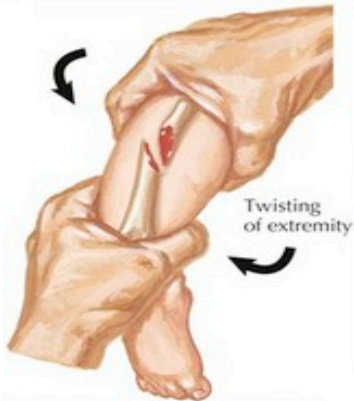
Loop or cord marks on buttocks



Typical slap pattern



## Fractures



Spiral fractures in young children may occur accidentally but often are due to abuse



Spiral fracture in infant



Avulsion fracture of metaphysis

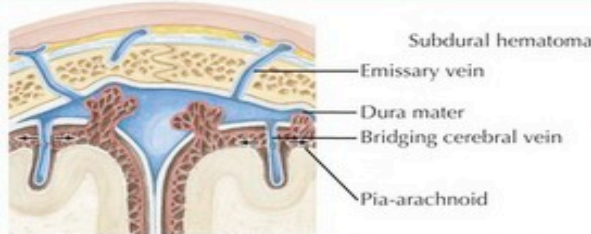


Sudden jerk on extremity avulses metaphyseal tips

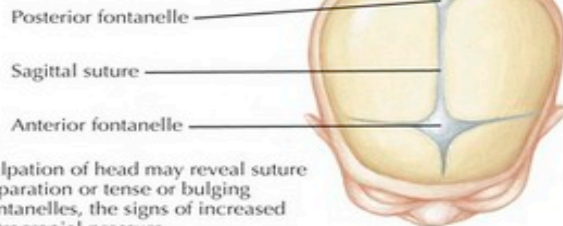


Further examination may reveal bruises, welts, or cigarette burns in various stages of healing on other parts of body

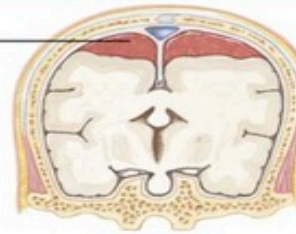
## Head injuries



In children, bridging cerebral veins are poorly supported as they pass through subdural space. Violent shaking may cause vulnerable veins to tear, creating subdural hematoma



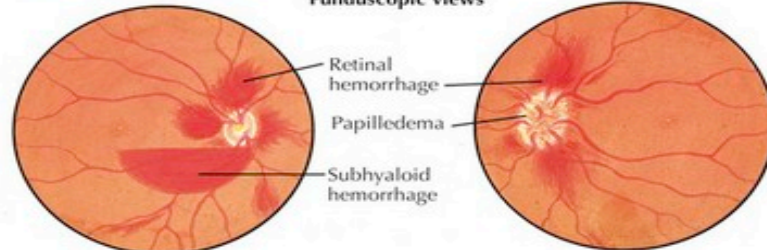
Palpation of head may reveal suture separation or tense or bulging fontanelles, the signs of increased intracranial pressure



Bilateral subdural hematomas, with or without evidence of skull fracture, can occur from head injuries. Seizure or coma may be first clinical sign.

JOHN A. CRAIG, MD

## Funduscopy views



In young children, retinal and subhyaloid hemorrhages accompany subdural bleeding

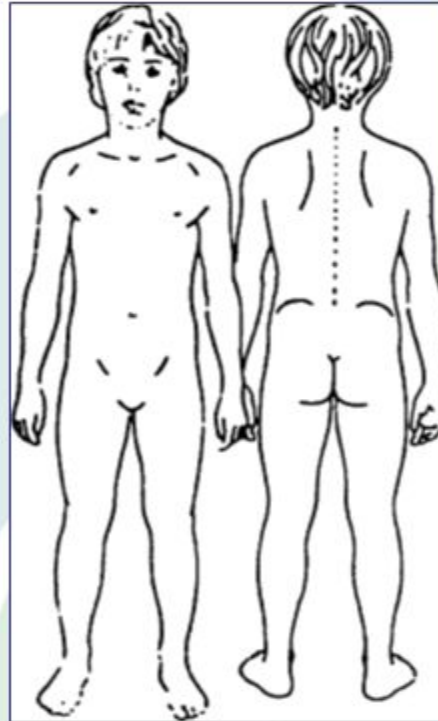
In older children, frank papilledema may accompany increased intracranial pressure caused by subdural bleeding



# Signs of Physical Abuse

## Common Sites for Non-accidental injury

Eyes  
Ears  
Cheeks  
Mouth  
Shoulder  
Chest  
Upper Arms  
Inner arms  
Stomach  
Genitals  
Front thighs  
Buttocks  
Back of thighs



## Common Sites for Accidental injury

Forehead  
Crown  
Bony spinal protuberances  
Elbows  
Iliac crest  
Knees  
Shins

*"a good value Council"*  
**audit** commission



*Corporal punishment by parents is subject to evaluation and interpretation. In general, spanking with a hand and other forms of mild physical punishment that do not leave any marks are considered within the realm of parental discretion.*



*Punishment that leads to marks that last for more than a few minutes can be interpreted as abuse, regardless of intention. The use of any objects to strike a child (other than with your open hand) is wrong. That includes belts, paddles, sticks, or any other object. A family tradition of beatings or the fact that the parent was subjected to physical abuse is not an acceptable excuse for severe injury to a child.*





*Excessive physical discipline is harmful and dangerous to children. Small children can be killed by relatively minor acts of physical violence (for example, shaking, dropping, or throwing the child against hard surfaces). Any severe beating with an object, forceful shaking, submersion in hot water, intentional burning, and other forms of intentional infliction of pain are inappropriate and criminal behaviors.*



*Any person who has been reared in an environment of violence may be more likely to inflict violence on others. People who recognize their tendencies to get angry, out of control, or violent should seek help. They can learn anger management and child rearing techniques, and try to suppress their violent tendencies through conscious and diligent effort at all times.*



*Seeing others inflict physical abuse on children should prompt immediate action by the observer. People who are physically violent generally demonstrate violence again—at escalating levels. Early intervention is the best strategy to avoid lifelong consequences.*

# Recognition of physical abuse



- *Delayed presentation.*
  - *Treatment not sought for. Treated at home. Seek treatment from different doctors.*
- *History*
  - *Vague history, different unacceptable explanations, conflicting histories given at various times by various people. Inconsistent injuries.*

- *Demeanour of child*

- *Scared, avoid eye contact, sad, depressed & apathetic*



- *Injuries*

- *Inflicted manually by hitting with hands, shaking*
- *Classical – black eyes, sub-conjunctival haem: bite marks, tramline contusions, areas of alopecia, scalds with particular pattern, cigarette burns, ear injuries due to slapping, injuries with different stages of healing, spiral fractures, pinch marks etc.*



- *Is Physical Punishment the Same As Physical Abuse? Physical abuse is an injury resulting from physical aggression. Physical punishment is the use of physical force with the intent of inflicting bodily pain, but not injury, for the purpose of correction or control. As you can see, physical punishment can easily get out of control and become physical abuse.*

# *What is sexual child abuse?*



- *includes any activity that uses a child to create sexual gratification either in you or in others. Although the touching of children as a sign of affection and for hygiene is considered normal and necessary, there is a way to distinguish normal touching from child sexual abuse. The key is the intention by the perpetrator to be sexually aroused by the activity or the intention to create sexual arousal in others.*



- *Child sexual abuse can include a wide variety of activities. Some are obvious acts of sexual abuse and others must be evaluated to determine if they are designed to create sexual gratification.*





- *Sexual abuse of a child is any sexual act between an adult and a child, including penetration, intercourse, incest, rape, oral sex, and sodomy. Other examples include:*
- ***Fondling*** – *Touching or kissing a child's genitals, making a child fondle an adult's genitals.*
- ***Violations of bodily privacy*** – *Forcing a child to undress, spying on a child in the bathroom or bedroom.*
- ***Exposing children to adult sexuality*** – *Performing sexual acts in front of a child, exposing genitals, telling "dirty" stories, showing pornography to a child.*
- ***Commercial exploitation*** – *Sexual exploitation through child prostitution or child pornography.*



*Activities can include any conventional adult sexual activity with a child.*

*includes prolonged kissing, cuddling and excessive touching.*

*Photographing, videotaping, or filming of children with the intent to create sexual stimulation .*

*exposure of a child to erotic material in the form of either live behavior (excessive nudity), photographs, film, or video.*



- *Regardless of the child's behaviour or reactions, it is the responsibility of the adult not to engage in sexual acts with children. Sexual abuse is never the child's fault. Sexual child abusers can be:*
- *Fathers, mothers, siblings, or other relatives.*
- *Childcare professionals or babysitters.*
- *Clergy, teachers, or athletic coaches.*
- *Foster parents or host families of foreign-exchange students.*
- *Neighbours or friends.*
- *Strangers*

# *What is emotional child abuse?*



- *Emotional child abuse is any attitude, behaviour, or failure to act that interferes with a child's mental health or social development. It can range from a simple verbal insult to an extreme form of punishment. Emotional abuse is almost always present when another form of abuse is found. Surprisingly, emotional abuse can have more long-lasting negative psychiatric effects than either physical abuse or sexual abuse.*



# Emotional Abuse

Abuse that expresses to children that they are worthless, flawed, unloved, unwanted, or only of value when meeting another's needs

# Examples of Emotional Child Abuse



- **Intimidation** - Yelling, screaming, threatening, frightening, or bullying.
- **Belittling or shaming** Humiliating the child, name-calling, making negative comparisons to others. Telling the child he or she is "no good," "worthless," "bad," or "a mistake."
- **Lack of affection and warmth** Showing little to no physical affection (such as hugs) or words of affection (praise, saying "I love you.")
- **Habitual blaming** Telling the child that everything is his or her fault.
- **Ignoring or rejecting** Withdrawing attention, giving "the cold shoulder," disregarding
- **Extreme punishment** Confinement to a closet or dark room, tying to a chair for long periods of time, or terrorizing a child.
- **Exposure to violence** Witnessing violent behavior, including the physical abuse of others.
- **Child exploitation** Taking advantage of a child, including child labor.
- **Child abduction** The trauma of being kidnapped, including kidnapping by a parent, amounts to abuse.

# What is neglect?



- *Neglect is a very common type of child abuse.*
- *more children suffer from neglect than from physical and sexual abuse combined. Yet victims are not often identified, primarily because neglect is a type of child abuse that is an act of omission — of not doing something.*

*Some overlap exists between the definitions of emotional abuse and emotional neglect. However, neglect is a pattern of failing to provide for a child's basic needs.*
- *A single act of neglect might not be considered child abuse, but repeated neglect is definitely child abuse.*
- *There are three basic types of neglect; physical neglect, educational neglect, and emotional neglect.*



- *“Neglect” means the failure or inattention on the part of the caregiver or parent to provide for that child’s basic needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and supervision.*



# *Some indicators of physical neglect include:*



- *Lack of proper supervision, abandonment or desertion*
- *Lack of adequate clothing and good hygiene*
- *Lack of medical or dental care*
- *Lack of adequate nutrition and shelter*
- *Failure to achieve expected growth patterns*



- *Some behavior indicators of neglect include:*
- *Begging, stealing food*
- *Extended stays at school*
- *Constant fatigue*
- *Delinquency*
- *States there is no caretaker*



# *What are the results of child abuse?*



- *Child abuse can have dire consequences, during both childhood and adulthood. The effects of being abused as a child vary according to the severity of the abuse and the surrounding environment of the child. If the family or school environment is nurturing and supportive, the child will probably have a healthier outcome.*

# *Negative Consequences of Child Abuse*



## *Emotional Effects*

- *Low self-esteem*
- *Depression and anxiety*
- *Eating disorders*
- *Relationship difficulties*
- *Alienation and withdrawal*
- *Personality disorders*



## *Physical Effects*

- *Injury*
- *Death*
- *Lifelong health problems*
- *Cognitive difficulties*



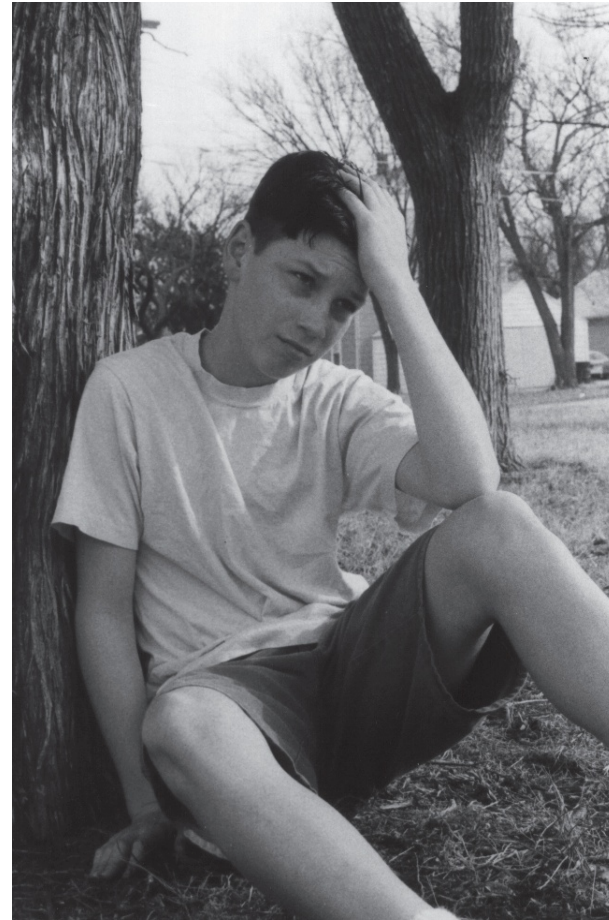
## *Behavioural Effects*

- *Problems in school and work*
- *Delinquency*
- *Teen pregnancy*
- *Suicide attempts*
- *Criminal or antisocial behaviour*
- *Substance abuse*
- *Aggressive behaviour*
- *Spousal and child abuse*

# *Medico-legal investigation*



- *Detail history.*
  - *Presenting complaint*
  - *Past history*
  - *Medical history*
  - *Trauma history*
  - *Family history*
  - *Social history.*





# *Presentation*

*Usually treatment not sought.*

*Home treatment, treatment from a GP.*

*Treatment sought from different doctors,*

*Vague history,*

*Conflicting histories.*

*Different explanations at different times,*

*Incompatible histories regarding the injuries or complications,*



## *Interviewing the child*



*It is important that the entire investigative process be conducted in a manner that does not revictimize the child.*

*May include videotaping of the child's statement.*

*Consider the child's age and ability to describe the incident*

*Repeated interviews should be avoided*

*Interviewed only by persons specifically trained to interview children about abuse.*

## *Scene visit*

- *Whenever possible and appropriate.*

### *Examination of clothes.*

- *Evidence of tears, neglect, stains.*



# *Preliminary Ix*



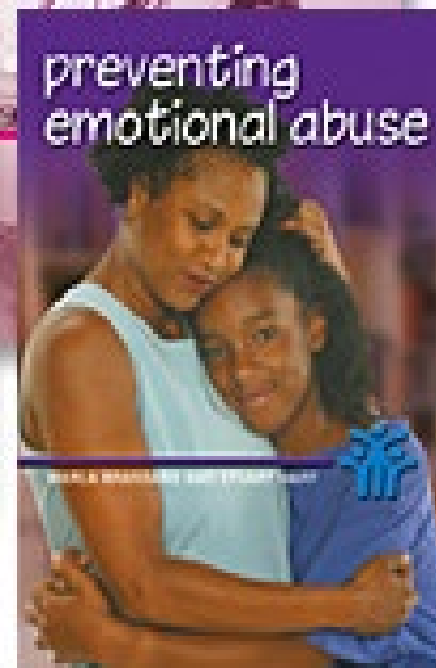
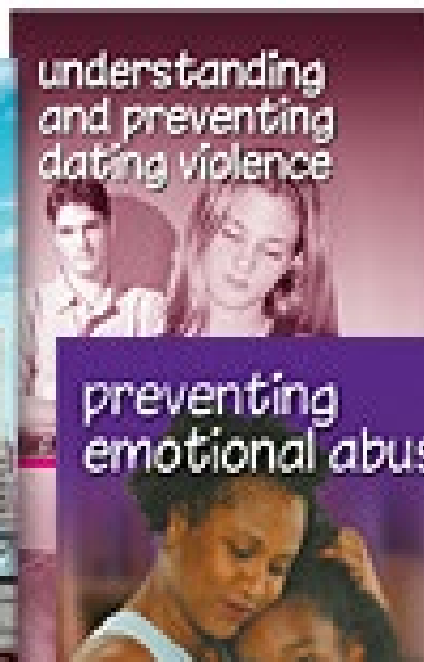
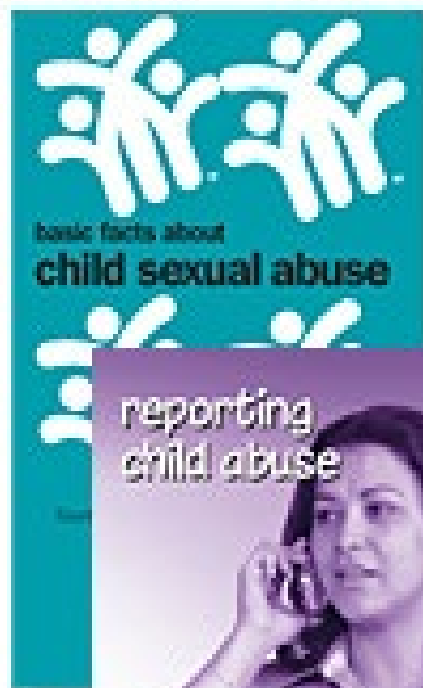
- *Trace material*
- *Skeletal survey*
- *Photography*
- *Referrals – paediatric, psychiatric, STD/AIDS. Gyn. & Obs., Eye, ENT, Orthopaedic*



- *Detail general, specific and genital examination.*
- *Case conference*
  - *JMO, Paediatrician, Psychiatrist, Police, NCPA officials, officer from probation and child care department, state counsel, parent/guardian.*
- *reporting*



# *Ensuring That All Children Have Safe, Happy Childhoods by Protecting Them from Abuse and Neglect*



# NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION AUTHORITY





Children... the  
greatest treasure  
on the earth



Children have a right  
to an adequate  
standard of living





NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA

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இலங்கை சீழவர் தொழில்நுட்ப சேவை

ChildLine Sri Lanka

1929



Every child has a right to freedom of thought



Children have a right to leisure and play

*Are you a child?  
Do you need to talk?  
Call ChildLine on '1929'*



## *Services*

*1929 Child-line Sri Lanka*

*Exhibition and Awareness programmes*

*Legal Interventions*

*Psychosocial Intervention*

*Surakna Kingship Programm*

*Tsunami Activities*

# *Legal interventions*



- *Providing legal advice and support in the following areas:*
  - *victims of child abuse*
  - *tsunami affected children*
  - *child victims of Domestic Violence*
- *Coordinating legal support in child labour activities.*
- *Knowledge and skills on Child Rights and Child-related legislation*



- *Police Special Investigation.*
- *Monitoring the progress of all investigations and criminal proceedings.*
- *Video recording of the statements of victims*

# *Surakṣa Kingship Programme*



*The 'Surakṣa' Foster Care Program offered by the NCPA helps orphaned and vulnerable children from some of the most marginalized communities in North and East. Generous citizens contribute by helping to sponsor a foster family to look after a child and help them grow up in a loving family environment.*



*thank you*