

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC. (Rocky)
HEAD START
ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY

All children at Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc. Head Start have a right to be safe and protected from abuse.

To ensure this safety and protection:

- All regular and intermittent staff, consultants, School District staff, Carroll College work study students, foster-grandparents and regular volunteers, will sign a release form annually so that the required background checks can be completed.
- All regular and intermittent staff, consultants, School District staff, Carroll College work study students, foster-grandparents and regular volunteers will receive yearly training on abuse - its indicators, reporting procedures, etc.
- Parents/Guardians will receive information regarding abuse and neglect reporting through an overview of our program by staff during Initial Family Visits.
- Classroom staff will annually provide personal safety training to children on how to protect and take care of themselves. Staff will utilize a curriculum approved by the program. Staff will provide information to parent/guardian about this curriculum prior to its presentation.
- In buildings with elevators, children will not be allowed to ride in the elevator with the exception of physically challenged children being transported by specialists or staff, and those children who are with their parent/guardian or transporting party.
- In order to protect children and adults from potentially abusive situations, Head Start will have two adults present with children. One of these adults must be a Rocky Head Start staff. The other will preferably be Rocky Head Start staff, but if this is not possible, the second adult may be a foster grandparent, Carroll College work study student, School District staff, regular program consultant or regular volunteer. In the event that children are on a walking or driving field trip, two Rocky Head Start staff must be present. If this is not possible the field trip will be rescheduled.
- An adult and child who are 1:1 will always be visible either by way of leaving doors open or by having doors with windows which allow visibility.
- Staff must ensure children's safety in the bathroom by adhering to any/all of the following:
 1. In each and every instance, ensure public bathroom is safe prior to sending child to the bathroom and maintain visual contact with the bathroom doorway until child returns to classroom.
 2. Send children to bathroom when another staff is visible and is supervising the bathroom.
 3. Accompany child to the bathroom.
- No Rocky vehicle or individual staff member vehicle used for business purposes will run with child(ren) unless two adults are present and proper child safety restraints are used.
- Children must be accompanied into their classrooms.
- Children will not be left alone in private vehicles in parking areas.

Staff who witness an unaccompanied child will talk with the parent/guardian if possible and notify the family advocate to follow-up with parent/guardian to ensure this does not continue. If it should continue, the Department of Public Health and Human Services, Child and Family Services Program, will be contacted for assistance.

RECOGNIZING INDICATORS OF CHILD MALTREATMENT

PHYSICAL NEGLECT (according to 41-3-102)

"Physical neglect" means either failure to provide basic necessities, including but not limited to appropriate and adequate nutrition, protective shelter from the elements, and appropriate clothing related to weather conditions, or failure to provide cleanliness and general supervision, or both, or exposing or allowing the child to be exposed to an unreasonable physical or psychological risk to the child.

(a) "Physical or psychological harm to a child" means the harm that occurs whenever the parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare: (i) inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon the child physical abuse, physical neglect, or psychological abuse or neglect; (ii) commits or allows sexual abuse or exploitation of the child; (iii) induces or attempts to induce a child to give untrue testimony that the child or another child was abused or neglected by a parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare; (iv) causes malnutrition or a failure to thrive or otherwise fails to supply the child with adequate food or fails to supply clothing, shelter, education, or adequate health care, though financially able to do so or offered financial or other reasonable means to do so; (v) exposes or allows the child to be exposed to an unreasonable risk to the child's health or welfare by failing to intervene or eliminate the risk; or (vi) abandons the child.

(b) The term does not include a youth not receiving supervision solely because of parental inability to control the youth's behavior.

For Physical neglect it is important to remember that the majority of reports that are received through the department fall under this category. This is something that we will go over quite a bit in the training, but some of the basic concerns are exposure to drugs, unsafe living environment, not getting medical treatment when necessary. No having the means to meet one's basic needs. I think that people get confused with this one and it will be gone over as well.

Physical Indicators	Signs
Constant hunger, poor hygiene, inappropriate clothing	Extreme behavior to get attention or to withdraw from attention
Consistent lack of supervision	Uncared-for appearance
Constant fatigue or listlessness	Inadequate or no shelter
Unattended physical problems or medical needs	Undernourished and tired appearance
Abandonment	Delayed growth, maturation, speech
	Begs, steals, hoards food

PSYCHOLOGICAL MALTREATMENT (according to 41-3-102)

"Psychological abuse or neglect" means severe maltreatment through acts or omissions that are injurious to the child's emotional, intellectual, or psychological capacity to: function, including the commission of acts of violence against another person residing in the child's home.

(b) The term may not be construed to hold a victim responsible for failing to prevent the crime against the victim.

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
Speech disorders	Habit disorders (sucking, biting, rocking, eating)
Lags in physical development	Conduct disorders (withdrawal, anti-social, destructive, cruelty, stealing)
Failure-to-thrive syndrome (progressive wasting away)	Sleep disorders and inhibition of play
	Behavior extremes (overly compliant or aggressive, running away)

PHYSICAL ABUSE (according to 41-3-102)

"Physical abuse" means an intentional act, an intentional omission, or gross negligence resulting in substantial skin bruising, internal bleeding, substantial injury to skin, subdural hematoma, lacerations, bone fractures, extreme pain, permanent or temporary disfigurement, impairment of any bodily organ or: function, or death.

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
Bruises or welts on face, mouth, torso, buttocks-in various stages of healing, choke marks, human hand prints	Wary of physical contact with adults - sometimes even shrinking at the touch or approach of an adult
Burns, broken bones and fractures, lacerations and abrasions	Becomes apprehensive when other children cry
Injuries at different stages of healing; unexplained abdominal injuries	Extremes in behavior (aggressiveness or withdrawal) – behavior that lies outside the range expected for the child’s age
Wary-flinching or ducking when adults make sudden movements	Seems frightened of the parents
Anxious and apprehensive-nightmares and flashbacks	Reports injury by a parent

SEXUAL ABUSE (according to 41-3-102)

"Sexual abuse" means the commission of sexual assault, sexual intercourse without consent, indecent exposure, sexual abuse, ritual abuse of a minor, or incest, as described in Title 45, chapter 5.

(b)Sexual abuse does not include any necessary touching of an infant's or toddler's genital area while attending to the sanitary or health care needs of that infant or toddler by a parent or other person responsible for the child's welfare.

"Sexual exploitation" means allowing, permitting, or encouraging a child to engage in a prostitution offense, as described in 45-5-601 through 45-5-603, or allowing, permitting, or encouraging sexual abuse of children as described in 45-5-625.

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
Difficulty in walking or sitting	Withdrawn - engage in fantasy or infantile behavior
Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing	Poor peer relationships (fighting, no friends)
Complaints of pain or itching in genital area	Bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior
Bruises or bleeding in external vaginal or anal area	Seductive, provocative behavior; severe behavior changes
	Excessive masturbation