



Educator Update – May 26, 2020

Keeping Huron County Educators Informed

TEACHING IN A VIRTUAL CLASSROOM: RECOGNIZING AND PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

***FIRST THINGS FIRST* SET A SAFE ENVIRONMENT:**

- Is your school allowing video for children or just the teacher?
- Have rules about where students and teachers can video conference from – public spaces in the house such as living rooms.
- Teachers should be professionally dressed, and students should be dressed appropriately.
- Classroom technology rules stay the same, no taking or posting images/videos of classmates or instructors to social media sites.

PHYSICAL INDICATORS:

- Visible bruises possibly in the shape of a hand or grab mark, burns, or broken bones.
- Unexplained illnesses or injuries.
- Parent uses harsh physical discipline, or discipline harsher than the crime.
- Child is absent from all virtual interactions and missing most or all of their work.
- Child's personal hygiene is noticeably not taken care of along with their surroundings.
- Child is lacking dental or vision care, may be noticeable during virtual interactions.
- Parent or child is abusing drugs or alcohol.

You may feel your information or instinct alone is not enough, but it may be just what a child needs. Remember: when in doubt, report it out. Not all reports will be enough to open a CPS case and not all reports will be a separation of the family.

CONTACT MDHHS IF YOU SUSPECT CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

PHONE: 855-444-3911

ONLINE: michigan.gov/mandatedreporter

CHARACTERISTICS OF ABUSE:

- Shows sudden change in behavior. This behavior may be due to the COVID-19 situation and the Stay-Home-Stay-Safe order as stress can cause sudden changes in behavior.
- The child lacks adult supervision, varies by age.
- The child has not received help for physical or medical problems the parents are aware of.
- The child seems frightened when other individuals enter the room.
- The child is overly quiet or not participating in class discussions which may not be normal for this child.
- The child is overly compliant, passive, or withdrawn.
- The parent shows little concern for the child.
- The parent denies existence or solely blames the child for problems at school and home.
- The parent demands an unrealistic level of physical or academic performance the child cannot achieve.
- Parent and child state they do not like each other or that their relationship is negative.

TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES:

- Reduce the stress on the students and caregivers by reducing the amount of work. Limit it to 1 hour of work per day.
- Be flexible with the families, they may have one computer to share between multiple people or many other reasons that take them away from schoolwork.



CAN COUNCIL
GREAT LAKES BAY REGION
Together we CAN
stop child abuse
and neglect.

2. SVSU's College of Education is seeking input from PK-12 community partners. You are invited to complete this survey and share your needs by May 31. <https://forms.gle/t89CqHTUaGy1iUv27>

3. PreK Educators: On June 9th at 1:30 pm there will be an online course "Explaining Play to Parents (and Other Adults)" Struggling with how to answer, "she plays at home, when she's here I want her to learn" or "why aren't you teaching him the alphabet and how to read?" Gain practical ways to show and explain to parents, and other adults, why play is critical to children's development and they'll be applauding your play efforts...almost guaranteed! Register: <https://go.miregistry.org/EventDetail.aspx?EVID=52355>

Check out our website at www.huronisd.org. Submit suggestions and feedback to curriekm@huronisd.org.