

Childhood is defined as the period between ages 0 and 18, characterized by the ongoing progress and thus incompleteness of physical, mental, and sexual development.

There are five different aspects of child abuse: *physical, economic, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect.*



NEGLECT is a caregiver's failure to meet the child's vital needs such as nutrition, shelter, health, clothing, protection, and supervision.

PHYSICAL ABUSE is the intentional use of physical force against a child actually or potentially causing harm to the child's health, life, development, or dignity.

Examples of the use of force include hitting, burning, pushing, biting, pinching, using weapons, beating, kicking, pouring an unwanted substance, trying to suffocate, and shaking, etc.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE is the situation where the child is deprived of the attention, love and care they need; such deprivation eventually leads to psychological problems.

SEXUAL ABUSE is the inclusion of a child in a sexual activity which the child cannot fully understand, cannot give consent to or is not developmentally ready or one that is against the laws and social norms of the society.

NON-CONTACT ABUSE covers verbal harassment, inappropriate phone calls, exhibitionism, voyeurism, direct exposure of the child to a sexual intercourse scene, and using a child for pornographic materials.

CONTACT ABUSE covers incidents of abuse perpetrated by way of contact including touching the private parts of the body, physical harassment, rape, forced prostitution, forcing a child to touch someone else's private parts.

ECONOMIC ABUSE is the employment of children for cheap labor that negatively affects their physical and mental development and are not commensurate with their age or strength.

CHILD MONITORING CENTERS

Child Monitoring Centers (CMCs) were established in order to minimize secondary traumatization of child victims of sexual abuse. CMCs offer a child-friendly environment that allows all legal and medical procedures to be carried out on a single window and at one time under the roof of a hospital. At CMCs, children are accompanied by a forensic interviewer during their statement-taking and their medical examinations are undertaken by physicians employed at the centers.

How to Protect Children from Abuse?

- Your children should be able to trust you and tell you about their problems.
- Children speaking up should be taken as credible sources.
- Children should be given age-appropriate sexual information; they should be taught about their private areas and know that these areas belong to them only and that no one can touch them inappropriately.
- They should be warned not to talk to strangers, not to accept gifts from strangers, and not to get into strangers' cars.
- They should be told not to open the door to people they do not know when they are alone at home.
- They should be advised to shout, run away, and ask for help when they feel they are in danger.
- When leaving home, they should inform the caregivers about where and with whom they will be.
- They should be taught that they can say NO.



A witness of a crime failing to report it to competent authorities commits an offence punishable by imprisonment (Turkish Criminal Code, Art. 278, 279, and 280).

Sexual abuse is not the child's fault; it is not caused by how a child behaves or dresses.

Sexual abuse can happen in every society and at every educational level. It can happen to boys and girls.

Contrary to popular belief, abuse is often perpetrated in environments and by people known to the child.

Every citizen is obliged to report any suspicion of abuse.



The Turkish Criminal Code penalizes child abuse.

Child abuse is regulated with severe criminal sanctions.

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RIGHT PLACE, QUALITY SERVICES

Contact the nearest **Migrant Health Centre** for more information and support



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**PREVENT
CHILD ABUSE
AND NEGLECT**

