

Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect in Online Environments

1

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

When connecting with students who are learning in online environments, pay special attention to how they describe their physical environment. Be aware of physical environments for signs of abuse and neglect. Utilize LIVE video conferencing sessions to **observe any irregularities** in physical environments.

Indiana Center for Prevention of Youth Abuse & Suicide Statistics

85%

of victims of child abuse **never** report their abuse

90%

of child victims are abused by individuals they **know, love,** and **trust**

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STUDENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIP

Be on the look-out for student behavior changes, and changes in the student-teacher relationship. Common red flags are **aggressiveness, short-temperedness,** and **lack of respect.**

ESTABLISHED ROUTINES

3

Monitor carefully if any students deviate from the established weekly routine. **Document** absences, frequent distractions from class activities, disruptive environments, and injuries to **identify** any **trends** to **abnormal student behavior.**



CHANGES IN STUDENT'S SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

4

Remember that students communicate with various school personnel. Be aware of other school-related **connections** and **interactions** with them for **negative changes.**

5

STUDENT-FAMILY INTERACTION

Schools may organize events where students' family members are invited. Be aware of how students **interact** with their **parents** or **family members.**

Indiana Center for Prevention of Youth Abuse & Suicide Statistics



1 out of every 4 females are **sexually abused**



1 out of every 6 males are **sexually abused**

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PROTOCOLS AND SELF-REPORTING

Students should have a safe and easy way to share their concerns in online learning environments (which could be neglect and abuse). Consider using a **"safe" word** or **sign** for students to **communicate sensitive needs.**

PLUG-IN AND BE INFORMED



Trauma-Informed Care for Children Exposed to Violence

- Provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- For more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/mv5ej882>

References:

- Indiana Center for Prevention of Youth Abuse & Suicide. (n.d.). Child abuse statistics. *Indiana Center for Prevention of Youth Abuse & Suicide*. <https://www.indianaprevention.org/child-abuse-statistics>
- Valley Children's Healthcare. (n.d.). *Detection of child abuse in virtual learning*. Valley Children's Healthcare. https://www.valleychildrens.org/media/file/5744_DetectionOfChildAbuseInVirtualLearning_Handout_FINAL.pdf