



CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS School Readiness Program

All school readiness program personnel are mandated by law to report their knowledge or suspicions of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment to the Florida Abuse Hotline in accordance with s. 39.201, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

- * School readiness program personnel must be alert to the physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and neglect. "Child Abuse or Neglect" is defined in s. 39.01, F.S., as "any willful or threatened harm" to a child's health (mental or physical) or welfare by the acts or omissions by a parent, adult household member, other person responsible for the child's welfare, or for purposes of reporting requirements by any person.

Categories include:

- Physical Abuse or Neglect (i.e. unexplained bruises, hunger, lack of supervision...)
 - Emotional Abuse or Neglect (i.e. impairment in the ability to function, depression...)
 - Sexual Abuse (i.e. withdrawal, excessive crying, physical symptoms...)
- * Reports must be made immediately to the Florida Abuse Hotline Information System by
 - Telephone at 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873), or
 - Fax at 1-800-914-0004, or
 - Online at <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/abuse/report>.
 - * Failure to perform duties of a mandatory reporter pursuant to s. 39.201, F.S. constitutes a violation of school readiness program standards, and is a felony of the third degree. **Remember**, it is each program personnel's responsibility to report suspected abuse and/or neglect.
 - * All reports are confidential. However, persons who are mandated reporters (including all school readiness program personnel) are required to give their name when making a report.
 - * It is important to give as much identifying and factual information as possible when making a report.
 - * Any person, when acting in good faith, is immune from liability in accordance with s. 39.203(1)(a), F.S.
 - * For more information about child abuse and neglect, visit the Department of Children and Families' website at www.myflfamilies.com/childcare and select "Training Requirements." The Department offers a 4-hour Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect course for child care providers. This course is an overview of the various types of abuse and neglect, indicators that may be observed, the legal responsibility of mandatory reporters, and the proper procedure for reporting abuse and neglect, as required by ss. 402.305(2) and 402.313(1), F.S. The course is offered both online and instructor- based throughout Florida.

This statement is to verify that on _____, 20____, I, _____,
Date Print Name of Employee
have read and fully understand the information and my mandated reporting responsibility and requirements.

Signature of Employee (for facility or large family child care home)

Signature of Operator