

Child Safety Tip Sheet for Educators



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services



Schools are crucial to ensuring the safety of children in Texas.

Thank you for all you do for your students during these unprecedented times. Just like you, families and their children are under a lot of stress.

Engage and support children and their families by sharing resources like [GetParentingTips.com](https://www.getparentingtips.com) with them.

If you have reason to believe that a child is a victim of child abuse or neglect, you **MUST** make a report.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

- 1-800-252-5400
- [TXAbuseHotline.org](https://www.txabusehotline.org) for non-emergency reports

24/7 SUPPORT

Family and Youth Success Program

Connect with immediate support for parents or caregivers.

Texas Youth Helpline (1-800-989-6884)

Call, text or chat the helpline to get support, advocacy, and resources for youth and families.

National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-7233)

For survivors of family violence. If they cannot safely speak then [visit the website](#) or text LOVEIS to 2252. Call 1-800-799-7233 for TTY.

Learning VIRTUALLY



Some key signs of maltreatment you've been trained to notice may still be present.

Students may tell you:

- They've been physically or sexually abused.
- Someone in their home is being abused or is at risk of physical violence.
- They're frightened of an adult at home.
- They're left alone or left caring for younger siblings for long periods of time.
- They talk about sex with more knowledge than is normal for their age.
- They're without critical or life-sustaining medication or medical treatment.

You may see:

- Unexplained bruises or marks, or ones that are inconsistent with the explanation.
- An adult using harsh physical discipline.
- A dangerous object like an unsecured gun.
- Legal or illegal substances within access.



Challenges children face that are NOT necessarily signs of abuse or neglect:

- ! Being frequently absent from class due to a lack of technology or internet access.
- ! Not finishing assignments because their caregiver doesn't speak English and can't help with school work.
- ! Being dirty or disorganized because their caregiver is juggling work or another child.
- ! Acting disruptive or withdrawn in class because a family member is ill.