Recognizing Child Abuse

Be aware of abuse, and take action when you suspect it or see it.

Things to know:

• Many people think child abuse is limited to physical harm. In reality, child abuse includes: physical abuse; physical neglect; sexual abuse; and emotional/mental maltreatment.

• Most child abuse and neglect is not a one time event but usually occurs in a pattern over time.

• Many children are subject to more than one form of abuse.

If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, contact your local department of social services or call the Virginia Department of Social Services **Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline 800-552-7096** (language line available)

It shouldn't hurt to be a child.