With children out of school, WE ALL need to step up and keep watch. If you have any concerns, REPORT IT! OUR CHILDREN NEED US!

Signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect:
- Bruising, bites, burns, broken bones, or black eyes
- Consistently dirty or severe body odor
- Apparent lack of supervision considering the age of the child
- Lack of care for serious medical needs or wound care
- Reluctant to be around a particular person
- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Demonstrates unusual sexual knowledge or behavior

Sometimes a parent’s demeanor or behavior sends red flags about child abuse:
- Shows little concern for the child
- Unable to recognize physical or emotional distress in the child
- Blames the child for all their problems
- Consistently belittles or berates the child
- Excessive corporal punishment
- Severely limits the child’s contact with others
- Offers conflicting or unconvincing explanations for a child’s injuries

Risk factors for families:
- History of being abused or neglected
- Physical or mental illness
- Family crisis or stress, including parenting without support, domestic violence
- Child with developmental or physical disabilities
- Financial stress, unemployment or poverty
- Unusual social or extended family isolation
- Poor understanding of child development and parenting skills
- Alcohol, drugs or other substance abuse

Helpful information when reporting:
- County
- First and/or last name of victim or caretaker
- Approximate age of child and caretakers
- Any information to assist in locating the family
- Description of concerns and/or injuries
- Anyone else who might know about the situation

Ask yourself: Does the injury match the explanation and correspond with the child’s age and development?

If you suspect abuse, report . . . even if you don’t have all the details, call:

1-800-96ABUSE or 1-800-962-2873

for more information about Handle with Care go to HandleWithCareFL.org