If you have a concern, take action immediately. Remember: it is NOT your job to prove anything! If you suspect abuse, your only job is to report to the police or protective services.

To make a report call Central Intake any time of the day or night:
Statewide: 1-855-552-5437, Treasure Valley: 208-334-5437, or you can call 211.

You are not required to provide proof of child abuse. Anyone who makes a good faith report based on reasonable grounds cannot be prosecuted. If the abuse occurred within the past 72 hours, a medical evaluation by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner is available by going to the Emergency Department at any local hospital.

Who is Required to Report Child Abuse?
Idaho law says that any person who has reason to believe that a child is being abused, neglected, or abandoned MUST report this to your local law enforcement agency or the Department of Health and Welfare within 24 hours. Failure to report suspected abuse, neglect, or abandonment is a misdemeanor.

Every state uses its own definitions of abuse and neglect as defined in their statutes. In Idaho, physical abuse constitutes any physical injury to a child which has a cause other than accidental means, including any injury which appears to be inconsistent with the explanation given for the injury. Physical neglect exists when there is failure on the part of the child’s caretaker to provide necessities such as adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical treatment, or supervision. Sexual abuse includes sexual acts and exploitation of a child.

*Helplines*
Advocates Against Family Violence Crisis Line  
(208) 459-6279
Idaho Caroline 211 or 1-800-926-2588
Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence  
1-888-293-6118 or www.idvs.org
Idaho Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-669-3176  
or www.ywcaidaho.org
Idaho Mental Health Crisis Hotline 208-334-0808  
or 1-800-600-6474
Idaho Suicide Prevention 1-800-564-2120  
or www.spanidaho.org
Women’s and Children’s Alliance Domestic Violence Crisis Line 208-343-7025
Women’s and Children’s Alliance Rape Crisis Line 208-349-7273

*Treatment Providers*
CARES (St. Lukes) 208-577-4460
FACES Family Advocacy Center 208-577-4400  
or www.idacountyfacs.com
Idaho Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health 208-433-8845 or  
www.idahofederation.org
Jefferson Street Counseling 208-385-0888
SANES Solutions (Terry Reilly) 208-345-1170 or  
www.trhs.org/Services/SANESolutions.aspx
Terry Reilly Health Services (Counseling) 208-467-4431
Women’s and Children’s Alliance 208-343-7025  
or www.wcaidaho.org

*Legal Help*
Idaho Volunteer Lawyer’s Program 1-800-221-3295
Legal Aid Services of Idaho www.idaholegalaid.org  
or 208-336-8980

*Prevention of Child Abuse*
Idaho Children’s Trust Fund/ Prevent Child Abuse Idaho 208-386-9317 or  
www.idahochildrenstrustfund.org
Idaho Coalition Against Sexual And Domestic Violence  
800-669-3176/ 208-386-0419 or  
www.idvs.org/

*Support Groups*
Domestic Violence Survivors 208-343-3688
Domestic Violence (Women) 208-467-4130

*Victim Advocacy*
Advocates Against Family Violence (208) 459-4779
Boise Police Department Victim’s Wellness Unit 208-573-7801
Domestic Violence Legal Advice Line 1-877-500-2980
Family Advocacy Center (FACES) 208-577-4400
Family Advocates/ Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) 208-345-3344 or  
www.familyadvocate.org
Nampa Family Justice Center 208-475-5705

*Helpful Websites*
American BAR Association www.abanet.org
The American Psychological Association www.apa.org
Darkness 2 Light www.darkness2light.org
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children
AbuseNeglect/tabid/74/Default.aspx
The National Association of Social Workers www.naswdc.org
National Center for Victims of Crime www.ncvc.org
National Children’s Alliance www.nca-online.org
National Clearing House on Abuse and Neglect www.nccanchr-acf.hhs.gov
Stewards of Children www.darkness2light.org
Stop It Now! www.stopitnow.org
Healthy Childhood Sexual Development and
How to Talk to Your Child about Sex and Sexual Abuse

Infancy (Birth–Age 2)

Normal Sexual Development
- Learn through relationship with caregivers
- Focus on developing a sense of trust
- Learn about body through sense of touch
- May explore genitals
- May have spontaneous reactions that appear sexual (e.g., erection, lubrication)
- No inhibitions about nudity

Adults can facilitate healthy sexual development by:
- Using correct anatomical terms for body parts (referring to body parts by non-anatomical names is common but not necessarily healthy or natural)
- Modeling “comfortable” touch (e.g., hugs that are not forced upon the child)
- Talking to child about boundaries as the opportunity arises (e.g., during diapering or bath tell child that genitals are off limits)

Toddler and Preschool Years (2–5 years old)

Normal Sexual Development
- Develop language to describe genitalia
- Should clearly know difference between males and females
- May know basics of human reproduction (e.g., babies grow inside mother’s tummy)
- Often masturbate
- Often engage in consensual genital exploration with same age peers
- May show curiosity about adult genitalia (e.g., may try to see Mommy nude)
- No inhibitions about nudity

Middle Childhood (5–8 years old)

Normal Sexual Development
- Gender identity solidifies and stabilizes
- Should have basic understanding of puberty (some children, especially girls, will show early signs of puberty)
- Should have basic understanding of human reproduction
- May understand differences in sexual orientation
- May masturbate
- Will develop more stable friendships
- May engage in consensual genital exploration with same age (and often, same sex) peers
- Will begin to be modest about nudity

Adults can facilitate healthy sexual development by:
- Teaching child the difference between appropriate touch and unacceptable touch by not forcing child to have unwanted contact
- Modeling the importance of privacy during bathing and toileting and giving child permission to be private about his/her own nudity
- Using everyday opportunities to teach child fundamentals of sexuality, give simple and direct answers to child’s questions about sex
- Teaching child that touching oneself feels good, is OK, and can be done in private
- Teaching child to respect other people’s boundaries and privacy

 Tweens (9–12 years)

Normal Sexual Development
- Onset of puberty, questions menstruation and pregnancy
- Desires more privacy and modesty
- Values same sex friendships
- Experiences increased sexual feelings including romantic feelings for same or opposite sex
- May experience gender confusion (e.g., Am I gay?)
- May explore sexual activity with peers
- May masturbate to orgasm

Recommended Books About Sex:
- What’s the Big Secret? Talking about Sex with Girls and Boys By Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown
- How to Talk to Your Child about Sex, It’s Best to Start Early, but it’s Never too Late– A Step by Step Guide for Parents By Linda and Richard Eyre
- Where Did I Come From? The Facts of Life Without any Nonsense and with Illustrations By Peter Mayle
- Sex Without Shame, Encouraging the Child’s Healthy Sexual Development By Alayne Yates
- Beyond the Birds and the Bees, Fostering your Child’s Healthy Sexual Development By Beverly Engle

Recommended Books About Sexual Abuse:
- A Very Touching Book, for Little People and for Big People By Jan Hindman
- My Body is Private By Linda Walvoord Girard, Rodney Pate
- It’s My Body By Lory Freeman
- Talking Isn’t Tattling By Kathryn Hammerseng
- Your Body Belongs to You By Cornelia Spelman
- When I Was Little Like You By Jane Forrest
- Fred the Fox Shouts “No!” By Tatiana Matthews

Adolescence (13–18 years)

Normal Sexual Development
- Continues and completes changes of puberty
- Values independence
- Experiences increased sexual feelings and wants physical closeness with a partner including kissing, fondling, and oral sex (1/3 of adolescents have intercourse)
- May choose romantic relationships over friendships
- May encounter violence in relationships
- Internet exploration of sexual material
- May engage in risky behaviors

Adults can facilitate healthy sexual development by:
- Teaching (and listening) with child about bodily responses, especially those that are precursors to sexual response and about what is and is not appropriate during peer interaction
- Modeling healthy, intimate adult relationships characterized by effective communication
- Teaching child about male and female puberty
- Using everyday opportunities to teach child about sexuality, even the mechanics of reproduction (children should know the “birds and the bees” by no later than 9 years old–research shows that children whose parents talk with them about sexuality are less likely to become sexually active at an early age)