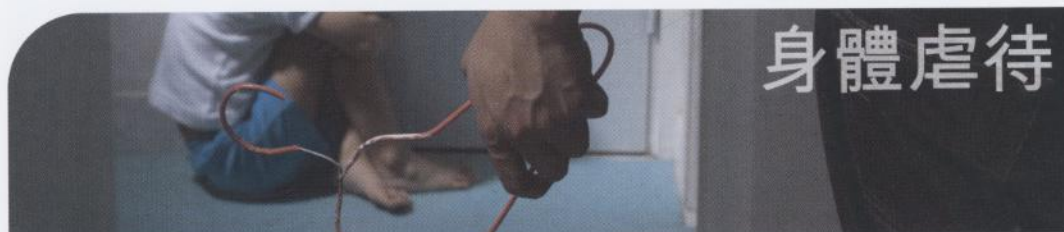


正視虐兒問題 積極伸出援手



熱線

社會福利署熱線	2343 2255
向晴24小時熱線	18288
芷若園24小時熱線	18281
防止虐待兒童會熱線	2755 1122
護苗熱線 (提供兒童性侵犯資料及協助)	2889 9933

保護家庭及兒童服務課電話號碼：

保護家庭及兒童服務課 (中西南及離島)	2231 5858
保護家庭及兒童服務課 (東區及灣仔)	2231 5859
保護家庭及兒童服務課 (觀塘)	2707 7681
保護家庭及兒童服務課 (黃大仙及西貢)	3188 3563
保護家庭及兒童服務課 (深水埗)	2247 5373
保護家庭及兒童服務課 (九龍城及油尖旺)	3583 3254
保護家庭及兒童服務課 (沙田)	2158 6680
保護家庭及兒童服務課 (大埔及北區)	2158 6696
保護家庭及兒童服務課 (屯門)	2618 5710
保護家庭及兒童服務課 (荃灣及葵青)	2940 7350
保護家庭及兒童服務課 (元朗)	2445 4224

“甚麼是虐兒？”

一般而言，虐待兒童的定義是對十八歲以下人士作出危害或損害其身/心健康發展的行為，或不作出某行為以致兒童身/心健康發展受危害或損害。我們基於社會的標準和專業知識，去衡量那些是虐待兒童的行為。

(一) 虐待的種類

身體虐待

指對兒童造成身體傷害或痛苦，（包括非意外使用暴力、蓄意下毒、使窒息、灼傷或「照顧者假裝兒童生病求醫」等），而且有證據可以肯定或合理地懷疑這些傷害並非意外造成的。

性侵犯

指牽涉兒童的非法性活動（例如強姦、口交），或該兒童不能作出知情同意的性活動。這包括：

- 直接或間接對兒童作出性方面的利用或侵犯（例如製作色情物品）。性侵犯事件可能發生在家中或其他地方；
- 侵犯者可能是兒童的父母、照顧者、其他成年人、甚或其他兒童，以個別或有組織的方式進行；
- 以獎賞或其他方式引誘兒童加以侵犯；以及
- 侵犯者可能是兒童認識的或是陌生人。（兒童性侵犯有異於隨便的性關係，後者不涉及一方對另一方性方面的利用，例如男童與女童之間隨便的性關係，雖然男童或會因此觸犯猥褻侵犯（非禮）或與未成年少女非法性交的罪行。）

疏忽照顧

指嚴重或重覆地忽視兒童的基本需要，以致危害或損害兒童的健康或發展。疏忽照顧可以是：

- 身體方面（例如沒有提供必需的飲食、衣服或住所、沒有避免兒童身體受傷或痛苦、缺乏適當的看管或獨留兒童在家）
- 醫療方面（例如沒有提供必需的醫療或精神治療）
- 教育方面（例如沒有提供教育或忽視因兒童的身體殘疾而引起的教育需要）
- 情感方面（例如忽視兒童的情感需要，沒有提供心理照顧）

精神虐待

指危害或損害兒童情緒或智力發展的重複行為及態度模式或極端事件。例如唾棄、恐嚇、孤立、剝削/利誘、漠視兒童的情緒需要，向兒童傳遞他/她是一無是處、有缺點、沒有人要或沒有人愛的訊息。這些行為會即時或長遠損害兒童的行為、認知、情感或生理功能。

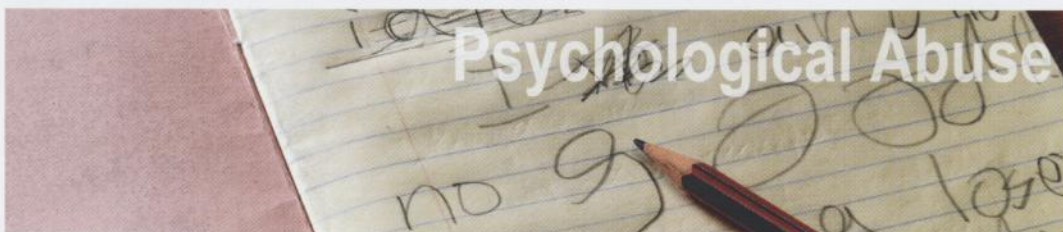
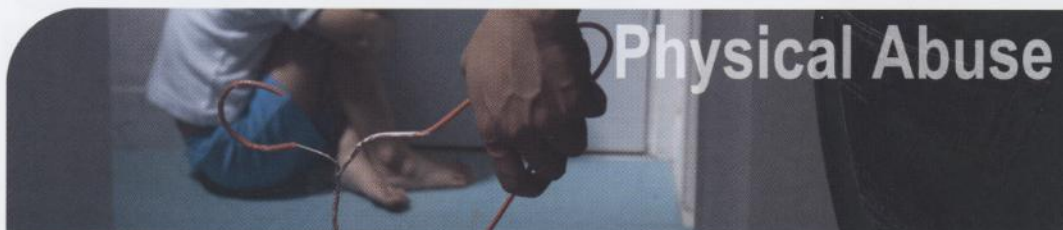
- (二) 虐待兒童事件並不僅發生在子女與父母/監護人之間，亦包括任何受委託照顧及管教兒童的人士，例如兒童託管人、親戚、老師等。至於兒童性侵犯，則包括由陌生人作出的行為。
- (三) 虐兒問題的成因非常複雜，可能由各種不同的因素導致。
- (四) 有時父母或照顧兒童的人，在處理本身的生活問題方面感到無助，例如婚姻出現問題、人際關係惡劣、工作失意等，很容易會將這些挫敗感、失望、沮喪和怨憤的情緒，發洩到兒童身上。
- (五) 有時父母或照顧兒童的人，不懂照顧和管教兒童的正確方法和技巧，例如不懂得如何處理子女的紀律、功課、情緒等問題，以致錯誤使用了暴力去控制場面，又或者忽略了兒童的需要。
- (六) 有時父母或照顧兒童的人，在沒有適當輔導及幫助之下，用了不當的方法去處理一些有特別需要的兒童，例如過份活躍、行為出現問題、弱能等，而促成虐兒。

為甚麼需要正視虐兒問題及怎樣協助受虐兒童和施虐者？

- 施虐者或會意識到自己的行為可能有問題，但他們往往無法控制，有些甚至不願改變虐兒的行為。
- 任何家庭都會出現問題，而任何家庭問題總有解決的方法。虐兒是家庭問題的徵兆，施虐者和受虐兒童同樣需要專業人士的治療和輔導。有需要時，應及早求助。
- 虐兒不單是個別家庭的問題，而且對兒童日後的成長，以及能否成為一個對社會有貢獻、奉公守法的良好公民，有著莫大的影響。
- 我們希望每個關心兒童成長和期望減少社會問題的市民，都能積極提高對虐兒問題的警覺性，並正視虐兒問題的嚴重性和深遠影響。
- 要成功防止虐兒事件的發生，有賴社會人士繼續推行社區教育和宣傳。
- 遇有懷疑虐兒個案，應盡早聯絡有關機構或各區的保護家庭及兒童服務課。

Child Abuse

It Matters You



Hotlines

Social Welfare Department	2343 2255
Family Crisis Support Centre 24-hour Hotline	18288
CEASE Crisis Centre 24-hour Hotline	18281
Against Child Abuse Hotline	2755 1122
End Child Sexual Abuse Foundation (Hug Line for child sexual abuse)	2889 9933

Family and Child Protective Services Units Telephone Number :

Family and Child Protective Services Unit (Central Western, Southern and Islands)	2231 5858
Family and Child Protective Services Unit (Eastern and Wanchai)	2231 5859
Family and Child Protective Services Unit (Kwun Tong)	2707 7681
Family and Child Protective Services Unit (Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung)	3188 3563
Family and Child Protective Services Unit (Sham Shui Po)	2247 5373
Family and Child Protective Services Unit (Kowloon City and Yau Tsim Mong)	3583 3254
Family and Child Protective Services Unit (Shatin)	2158 6680
Family and Child Protective Services Unit (Tai Po and North)	2158 6696
Family and Child Protective Services Unit (Tuen Mun)	2618 5710
Family and Child Protective Services Unit (Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing)	2940 7350
Family and Child Protective Services Unit (Yuen Long)	2445 4224

“ What is Child Abuse ? ”

In a broad sense, child abuse is defined as any act of commission or omission that endangers or impairs the physical or psychological health and development of an individual under the age of 18. Such act is judged on the basis of a combination of community standards and professional expertise.

1. Types of Abuse :

Physical abuse is a physical injury or physical suffering to a child (including non-accidental use of force, deliberate poisoning, suffocation, burning, Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, etc.), where there is a definite knowledge, or a reasonable suspicion that the injury has been inflicted non-accidentally.

Sexual abuse is the involvement of a child in sexual activity (e.g. rape, oral sex) which is unlawful, or to which a child is unable to give informed consent. This includes direct or indirect sexual exploitation and abuse of a child (e.g. production of pornographic material). It may take place within the home or outside the home. It may be committed by parents, carers, other adults or children singly or acting in an organised way. The abuser may make use of rewards or other means to attract the child. It may be committed by individuals either known or strangers to the child. (Child sexual abuse is different from casual sexual relationship that does not include any sexual exploitation, e.g. between a boy and a girl, though the boy can be liable for offences like indecent assault or unlawful sexual intercourse with an underaged girl.)

Neglect is severe or repeated pattern of lacking of attention to a child's basic needs that endangers or impairs the child's health or development. Neglect may be :

- Physical (e.g. failure to provide necessary food, clothing or shelter, failure to prevent physical injury or suffering, lack of appropriate supervision or left unattended)
- Medical (e.g. failure to provide necessary medical or mental health treatment)
- Educational (e.g. failure to provide education or ignoring educational needs arising from a child's disability)
- Emotional (e.g. ignoring a child's emotional needs or failure to provide psychological care)

Psychological abuse is the repeated pattern of behaviour and attitudes towards a child or extreme incident that endangers or impairs the child's emotional or intellectual development. Examples include acts of spurning, terrorizing, isolating, exploiting/corrupting, denying emotional responsiveness, conveying to a child that he/she is worthless, flawed, unwanted or unloved. Such act damages immediately or ultimately the behavioural, cognitive, affective, or physical functioning of the child.

2. Child abuse is not limited to a child-parent/guardian situation, but includes anyone who is entrusted with the care and control of a child, e.g. child-minder, relative, teacher, etc. For child sexual abuse, the acts may also be committed by strangers to the child.
3. Child abuse is a very complex problem and can be triggered by various factors.
4. Parents or carers may be feeling helpless in handling stresses in their lives, such as marital problem, poor interpersonal relationship, job failure, etc. Some parents may ventilate their feeling of failure, disappointment, despair or anger onto their children.
5. Sometimes, parents or carers may not know the proper way or skills to take care of their children. For instance, they may be unable to discipline their children or handle their school work or emotions. Some parents may then resort to excessive physical force to control the situations or simply ignore the children's needs.
6. Without proper guidance or assistance, some parents and carers may use improper ways to handle the children with special needs, such as those who are hyperactive, mentally handicapped or who misbehave. This may also lead to child abuse.

Why should we care about child abuse and what can we do to help?

- People who abuse children may be aware that their behaviour is questionable. But very often, they have difficulty to control their abusive behaviour or some may even be unmotivated to change such behaviour.
- All families have problems and for all family problems, there should be solutions. Child abuse is just a sign of family problems. Victims of abuse and the abusers are equally in need of professional treatment and counselling. People should seek help as early as possible.
- Child abuse is not just the problem of individual families. It will also hinder the development of the children and affect their ability to contribute to the society as law-abiding citizens.
- We hope that everyone who cares about children's development and reducing social problems will help stop child abuse. We have to enhance our awareness about the scope and extent of the problem and give it serious attention.
- For effective prevention of child abuse, we need the continual support of our community in promoting public education and publicity.
- In case you come across any suspected case of child abuse, please contact the relevant organisation or respective Family and Child Protective Services Unit.