

# Child Abuse & Suicide

There are different types of abuse: **PHYSICAL, SEXUAL, EMOTIONAL, and NEGLECT**. You are probably most familiar with the first three types. Neglect is a more difficult form of abuse to determine. **NEGLECT** is a non-accidental deprivation, by a person responsible for a child's health or welfare. Basically, failure to provide the minimal adequate physical and emotional requirements due to absence of parental responsibility and not absence of resources.

Child abuse is not always easy to detect because individuals are unaware of the changes in abuse victims, but there are indicators to look for.

## Indicators of Abuse:

- Sleeplessness or increased sleeping
- Sexually acting out with other children or toys
- Talking sexually explicit language in manner beyond child's age
- Bruises
- Substance abuse among family members
- Frequent absences from school by victim which are justified by caretaker

## What happens if your Little confides in you?

- Don't be SHOCKED!
- Let your Little know that he/she can trust you – But do not tell them that you will not tell anyone, especially if it will hurt them.
- Make sure you report any suspicions or incidents to your Big Brothers Big Sisters Representative, High School Teacher, or elementary school counselor.**

Child Abuse Hotline # 1-800-252-5400

# Suicide

## Take suicide seriously!

- Believe the unbelievable. It really could and does happen. It could happen to someone you know.
- If your Little threatens suicide... listen to him/her. Be a good friend and offer to go with them to talk immediately to a trusted teacher, parent, or other adult.