

Child abuse is the non-accidental physical, sexual, emotional harm or risk of harm to a child under the age of 18 caused by a parent or other person who acts as a caregiver.

Neglect occurs when a parent or caregiver purposely fails to provide proper supervision for a child or adequate food, clothing, shelter, education or medical care, although financially assisted or able to do so.



**#BridgetheGap**

## **PREVENT CHILD ABUSE**

**Ensure social connections. Check on and offer remote support to families you know:**

- with infants and young children
- that have children with special needs
- with a history of substance abuse
- who are under extreme stress due to unemployment, food insecurity or housing instability
- with a history of violence
- with a history of mental illness

**Notice the signs. Children who are abused or neglected may:**

- be withdrawn – hard to engage
- have visible, (poorly) unexplained/untreated injuries
- flinch at the sound of caregiver/s talking/walking
- have consistently bad hygiene
- frequently miss (online) school or appointments
- appear hungry or malnourished
- be sexually aware and active at a very young age
- talk about and make plans to run away from home

**During these uncertain times of social distancing, MANY children are at risk. Report Suspected Child Abuse to 1-877-652-2873.**