

HEY COUNSELORS!

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH RECOGNIZING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE.

Families are living in unique circumstances.

Because of earlier shelter-in-place orders and the suspension of in-classroom learning, children have been at home where child abuse is more likely to go unreported. Many parents have struggled to balance the new demands of child care with the stress and anxiety related to the COVID-19 pandemic. When stress is high and access to support is low, some parents might be more likely to act in ways they ordinarily wouldn't, which means some kids might be at a higher risk for abuse.

For some kids, camp may be one of their first outings to a safe place with safe adults.

Be on the lookout for possible signs of abuse:

UNEXPLAINED INJURIES LIKE BRUISES, CUTS, OR BURNS

CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR OR RETURNING TO EARLIER BEHAVIORS

FEAR OF CERTAIN PLACES OR PEOPLE

LACK OF PERSONAL CARE OR HYGIENE

A CHILD DISCLOSES LONG PERIODS OF TIME HOME ALONE

RISK-TAKING BEHAVIORS

INNAPPROPRIATE SEXUAL BEHAVIORS

Suspected abuse is enough of a reason to report and you have a duty to contact authorities.

If you have any safety concerns relating to child abuse or neglect, please call the Texas Abuse Hotline at

1-800-252-5400

