

13. Fathers who connect with their children form strong family bonds.
14. Parents can learn ways to calm a crying baby and manage feelings of frustration when a baby is inconsolable.
15. Parents can investigate child care provider for any history of abusing children. Use Trustline to check out child care providers 800-822-8490.
16. Parents can ask for help when depressed or stressed by life's challenges.
17. Parents learning about child safety in the home can prevent accidents and increase awareness of the environment.
18. Parents can use community services such as respite care and home visiting services to strengthen parental resilience when times are tough.
19. Communities can support families by providing free or low-cost activities that encourage parent/child interactions.
20. Community networks collaborating with each other facilitate ease of referrals and obtaining services for families.



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**



**Office of Child Abuse Prevention**  
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# 20 FACTS

## ABOUT

# CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

1. Child abuse or neglect is a crime.
2. The California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law (Penal Code sections 11164-11174.3) may be accessed on the internet at [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov).
3. Child abuse and neglect affect children of all ages, races, and incomes.
4. Instances of suspected abuse or neglect should be reported to Child Protective Services (CPS) or police.
5. A listing of California's Hotline Numbers for child abuse reporting for each county may be found at [www.childsworld.ca.gov/res/pdf/CPSEmergNumbers.pdf](http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/res/pdf/CPSEmergNumbers.pdf)
6. Parents abusing drugs or alcohol are at higher risk of abusing or neglecting their children.
7. Exposure to domestic violence negatively impacts children. Evidence shows a strong connection between domestic violence and child abuse.

8. Children under two years of age are at greater risk of abuse or neglect.
9. Prematurity is a risk factor for child abuse or neglect.
10. Abusive head trauma or shaken baby syndrome often occurs when an adult shakes a child because of inconsolable crying.
11. Children with disabilities are more likely to be abused or neglected than children with no disabilities.
12. Neglected or sexually abused children may not show physical signs of harm.
13. Children in poverty suffer neglect and abuse 22 times more than children in affluent families.
14. It is against the law to knowingly make a false report of child abuse or neglect.
15. Reporting child abuse or neglect only requires “reasonable suspicion” and does not automatically mean the child will be removed from the home.
16. Only Child Protective Services or a law enforcement agency may conduct an investigation into suspected abuse or neglect.
17. In California, mandated reporters are required to report child abuse and neglect. Mandated reporters are those who come into contact with children through their employment and may receive training at [mandatedreporter.ca.com](http://mandatedreporter.ca.com).

18. Once investigated, reports of suspected child abuse are categorized as substantiated, unfounded or inconclusive (insufficient evidence).
19. Substantiated and inconclusive reports of child abuse or neglect are filed in the California Department of Justice Child Abuse Central Index (CACI) database.
20. Unfounded reports are purged from the CACI database.

## 20 WAYS OF PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

1. The Child Help USA Hotline offers 24-hour crisis telephone assistance for individuals under stress. Telephone counseling is available in 140 languages 800-422-4453.
2. Organizations such as Parents Anonymous offer self-help groups for parents seeking support and positive parent strategies at [www.parentsanonymous.org](http://www.parentsanonymous.org).
3. Child Abuse Prevention Councils or Family Resource Centers have resources available locally to help families. [www.capsac.org/crisisnumbers/ca-councils](http://www.capsac.org/crisisnumbers/ca-councils) or 222. [familyresourcescenters.net](http://familyresourcescenters.net)

4. Parents who ask for help in getting housing, food, transportation, and/or health care protect their families from stress.
5. Being connected to family and friends by sharing celebrations and day-to-day problems makes families stronger.
6. Families who use a family physician and healthcare provider, also known as a medical home, promote good health and children are screened for normal developmental milestones on an ongoing basis.
7. Parents who encourage, listen, and accept expression of emotions help their child to develop healthy self-esteem about themselves and in relation to others.
8. Parents who learn about and practice safe nonviolent forms of child discipline become positive role models for their children.
9. Learning what is normal with their child’s development helps parents accept their child as they are and decreases frustration from unrealistic expectations.
10. Parents that utilize recovery programs for alcohol or drug abuse learn to stay clean and stay connected with others.
11. Parent education classes teach parents the benefits of bonding, understanding, and accepting their children’s personalities.
12. High quality preschools teach children social skills and build self-esteem.