

10 Steps for the Safety & Success of OUR Students

- 1. Watch a brief video...
 - “click” on this hyperlink
 - Give the movie a minute or so to load
 - Allow the video to ‘tug’ at your heart



- 2. Join a “Community of Learners”...
 - i.e., a group of individuals who are willing to learn and share so that we can better protect children with disabilities from maltreatment

- **3. Have a conversation...**

- “Did you know that children with disabilities experience child maltreatment at a rate that is three times greater than that experienced by their nondisabled peers?”
- “Did you know that children between the ages of birth through 3 years experience the highest incidence of maltreatment?”

- **4. Share the URL for our WWE with a colleague and encourage them to look at one or more of the presentations...**

- "[O.U.R. Children: Observing, Understanding, Responding & Preventing Violence Against Children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing](#)”
 - December 3 & 4, 2011 - St. Augustine, FL

- **5. Share a resource...**

- i.e., a Web page, document, agency, program, individual, etc. that you value and rely upon to address the topic of maltreatment as experienced by individuals with disabilities.
- Send the resource, along with a brief explanation of the resource and why you are suggesting it to Harold Johnson at hjohnson@msu.edu

- **6. Ask a question of a program administrator...**

- “What are we doing to prevent, or at least effectively observe, report, and respond to suspected/confirmed cases of child maltreatment?”
- Share their response with Harold Johnson at hjohnson@msu.edu

- **7. Request training and support from a program administrator...**

- “I know I am a mandatory reporter of child maltreatment, but I need more information regarding how to prevent, recognize, report and respond to suspected/confirmed cases of maltreatment. I also know that I will need ongoing support re. this critical, yet difficult topic. When, where, and how can I get this training and support?”
- Share their response with Harold Johnson at hjohnson@msu.edu

- **8. Identify and nominate a “Bright Spot,” ...**

- i.e., a trusted and valued member of your community that is recognized for their knowledge and skills concerning both child maltreatment and children with disabilities.
- Send nominations to Harold Johnson at hjohnson@msu.edu

- **9. Call , 1-800-4-A-CHILD...**

- When you suspect a child may be experiencing maltreatment.
- You will have a confidential conversation with a counselor who will help you to decide if what you are observing is a likely case of abuse or neglect + identify who you can call to report your suspicion.



- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children Helpline:
 - 1-800-222-4453
- [Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline - ChildHelp.org](https://www.childhelp.org)

- 10. When a child tells you that they are being neglected, or abused, believe them, report the maltreatment to the [FL Abuse Hotline](#), then provide the child with a safe and accepting setting.

The screenshot shows the Florida Department of Children & Families website. The header includes the department name and navigation links: HOME, REGIONS/CIRCUITS, PROGRAMS, ADMINISTRATION, YOUTH STUDY, NEWSROOM, CONTACT US, and a search bar. The main content area is titled "Florida Abuse Hotline" and features two columns. The left column, "DCF Home", lists various resources such as "Report Abuse Online", "Definitions", "How to Report", "False Reporting", "What We Need to Know", "Mandated Reporter Information", "Child Laws: FS Chapter 39", "Adult Laws: FS Chapter 415", "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)", "Resources", and "Hotline Data & Statistical Reports". Below this list is a banner for the "Statewide Task Force on Human Trafficking". The right column contains contact information: a red rotary phone icon for voice reporting (1-800-962-2873), a computer icon for online reporting (1-800-453-5145), and a fax icon (1-800-914-0004). It also includes a "Report Abuse Online NOW" link and a link to "Online Reporting Guide Online Report System Requirements". A disclaimer states that these systems are for non-emergency concerns and provides instructions for emergency situations: call 911 first, then the hotline at 1-800-962-2873. A section titled "About the Florida Abuse Hotline" explains that over 1 million children are victims of abuse and neglect annually, and the department provides services to help families. A final note states that the hotline serves as the central reporting center for abuse, neglect, and human trafficking.

- 1-800-962-2873 (voice) 1-800-453-5145 (TDD)