

2 Child Abuse

16 Child abuse is a terrible problem in the United States and in many countries
29 around the world. Child abuse comes in many forms, and causes problems for
40 kids as infants, toddlers, school-age children, adolescents, and young adults.
54 Child abuse even leaves scars, both physical and emotional, on adults that last a
55 lifetime.

69 Child abuse can be physical. Now, and in the past, children have been hit
84 by parents, as well as other adults they know. Children have been hit with open
97 hands, closed fists, with bats, belts, electrical cords, and other things. Besides the
110 physical, which leaves marks on the skin, children have suffered other forms of
111 abuse.

125 Emotional abuse is where children have been made to feel they are bad or
139 unwanted. Children have been abused with a lack of nutrition. This can be a
153 situation where a child is not given enough to eat. And more recently, some
169 children have been abused by being given too much to eat, or the wrong kinds of
176 food, like fast food and junk food.

189 Children have been forced to live in homes where parents abuse drugs and
202 alcohol. Children have been abused by what is called neglect, where the parents
218 pay so little attention to the child that the child is endangered or can even die.
235 Maybe you can see in your mind some cases of neglect: a child riding in a car
255 without a seatbelt, a child left in a locked car in a parking lot on a hot day, a child
266 left home alone, or a child whose emotional pain is ignored.

280 Taking good care of children is the most important thing an adult can do.
295 Adults need to be especially careful of what they do around children. Even if they
310 don't mean to, adults can abuse children by allowing them to see them do things
320 like smoking, drinking alcohol, abusing drugs, driving dangerously, swearing, and
334 disrespecting others. What children see adults they know do, they may very well
347 do themselves as they grow up. Adults should set good examples for children.