



GEORGIA  
HOPE

# RECOGNIZING AND PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN A VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

## Set a Safe Environment

- Have rules about where students and teachers can video conference from
- Teachers and students should be appropriately dressed
- Classroom technology rules stay the same – no taking pictures or videos of the of classmates or instructors

## Physical Indicators

- Visible bruises
- Unexplained illness or injuries
- Parents use harsh physical discipline
- Child absent from virtual classroom and missing most of their work
- Personal hygiene and/or surroundings are not taken care of
- Parent or child is abusing drugs or alcohol

## Regularly engage with children and their caregivers

- Make clear how you can be contacted and when you plan to connect
- Ensure the ability to have private conversations with children and families when needed

## Ask Questions and be curious

- Talk regularly to children and their caregivers. Ask specific questions
- Notice any changes in the way the child or adult responds to questions
- Ask if there is any need of support and work with them on finding support

## Characteristics of Abuse

- Sudden change in behavior
- Lacking adult supervision
- Not receiving help for physical/medial problems
- Seeming frightened when someone enters the room
- Overly quiet not participating in class discussion, atypical for the child
- Overly compliant, passive or withdrawn
- Parent displays little concern for child
- Parent denies existence or solely blames child for problems at home or school
- Parent demands unrealistic expectations the child cannot achieve
- Negative relationship between parent and child

## Observe the environment

- Monitor the environment closely during video chats for changes in behaviors as well as any sounds heard during virtual contact (i.e. yelling in the background)
- Observe and document any bruises or marks you observe during virtual contacts
- Ask who is in the home and pay attention to the environment and who may be listening to the call



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FOR SCHOOLS

If you have questions or would like to enroll/ make a referral. Simply complete the online referral form, call our office 706-279-0405, or e-mail us at [info@gahope.org](mailto:info@gahope.org).

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