



Protecting Children During the Pandemic

During COVID-19, children are at higher risk for maltreatment due to decreased supervision, isolation with harmful adults, and increased caregiver stress levels .

Support children in regulating their emotions. Frequently discuss and validate their feelings while being open, honest, and direct.

Connect with children and families frequently and reassess risks and needs often.

Speak with children about internet safety in an age appropriate manner.

Through virtual communication, ask indirect questions to gather information about the child's living situation. Direct questions of maltreatment may not be answered truthfully if there is a caregiver in the room out of camera view.

Children may be experiencing trauma-bonding or virus-related threats preventing them from disclosing abuse during COVID-19. Discuss the falsity of manipulation tactics in an age-appropriate manner.

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