

## Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Individuals working with children are mandated reporters and are required by law to make a report to the Knox County Department of Job and Family Services (KCDJFS) if they have reasonable cause to believe or suspect that a child is suffering from abuse or neglect or is in danger of abuse or neglect (**Section 215.421 G of the Ohio Revised Code**).

Each Knox County Head Start employee must complete training and sign a statement to verify that they have not been involved in any previous incident of child abuse and/or neglect, nor have they been convicted of child abuse and/or neglect. The training provided to KCHS staff allows them to assess a situation within a family that would require them to make a report to the KCDJFS. Finger printing and a criminal background record check are completed on all employees at the time of hire. No person is hired until this procedure is complete.

Knox County Department of Job & Family Services will determine the appropriate action and may decide to conduct an investigation. It is this agency's job to determine if the report of abuse or neglect is valid and to work with the family to meet the needs of the child. KCHS will cooperate fully with any investigation and will maintain confidentiality concerning any report of child abuse or neglect.

Knox County Head Start encourages families to utilize the Children's Services division of ODJ&FS as a resource before discipline gets out-of-hand.

**If you find it difficult to remain in control when disciplining your children they ask that you call them for help.** They are ready to help you find a way to make things better for you and your family. They can be reached at 740-397-7177, 24/7. Knox County Head Start is concerned with the health, safety, and well-being of all children and parents enrolled in our program.

### **CHILD SAFETY NOTE:**

If you find it difficult to remain in control when disciplining your child, please call Knox County Children Services at 740-397-7177.