UNRAVELING THE MYTHS AND CHALLENGES OF MANDATED REPORTING

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24 Reasons Teachers are the Unsung Heroes of this World by Jon-Michael Poff, Buzzfeed

1. Their day begins long before the school bell rings while most students are still asleep.
2. And it continues long after the kids go home.
3. Teachers are multitasking powerhouses; grading papers while watching *Scandal* while also cooking dinner.
4. They teach a lot more than just their subject.
5. They live and work in front of the toughest audience in the world.
6. Teachers don’t actually sit much at their desks. They’re always on their feet teaching and helping students.
7. They have the patience of a saint to deal with ornery kids all day long.
8. They have one of the most important jobs in the world – and they don’t get paid a lot for it.
9. And they even spend their own hard-earned money on school supplies and student rewards.
10. There is nothing more exciting for teachers than seeing lightbulbs go off and passions ignited.
11. And there’s nothing more heartbreaking than seeing flames die and interest fade.
12. They find ways to innovate and make lessons interesting.
13. “Failure” isn’t a word in teachers’ vocabulary. They always find a way.
14. They handle “angsty” teens and helicopter parents with enviable class.
15. Their resolve to teach is greater than their students’ resolve to goof off.
16. Teachers are masters of making each student feel special, even in a class of 25.
17. Teaching is actually about 20 professions rolled into one.
18. You thought your lunch period was rushed? Teachers have to eat lunch while walking around on hall duty.
19. Teachers are improvisational wizards who can whip out a lesson plan on a moment’s notice.
20. Their seasonal sweaters really do make the world go ‘round.
21. They have to wait years to see the fruits of their labor.
22. Some people think teachers live for summer. They couldn’t be more wrong.
23. Summer break is awesome – but teachers often spend it in class learning how to be an even better teacher.
24. The future really is in their hands.
Why did you decide to be a teacher or school administrator?
Welcome to Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training.

Who Should Report

Free training available for mandated child abuse reporters.
Teachers are Mandated Reporter Superheroes

The **Top Three** Professions to Report Child Abuse & Neglect:

- **Teachers and School Personnel**: 79,007
- **Counselor/Therapist**: 60,339
- **Law Enforcement**: 59,907
Overview:

- **Late 1800's** – Children are property of their fathers.
- **1870** – Mary Ellen Wilson (8 years old) abused by adoptive mother. The plight fell into the hands of attorneys for the American Society for the Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).
- **1962** – Child Abuse becomes medically diagnosable.
- **1963** – 1st CA Child Reporting Law.
- **1974** – CAPTA law – supports shelter and services to victims.
- **1978** – ICWA - promotes the best interest of Indian tribes and families.
- **1980** – CANRA - Expands definition of child abuse and expands mandated reporters.
- **Today** – 6,000,000 children per year are abused; 4-5 die every day.
In California **499,661 children reported abused** (2017)*

- **71,289 substantiated**
  - 77% suffered neglect
  - 8% were physically abused
  - 4% were emotionally or psychologically maltreated
  - 5% were sexually abused
  - 6% at risk
- **59,619 kids in foster care as of 1/1/2018**

Source: *UC Berkeley Child Welfare Indicator Project*
What Constitutes Abuse?

Four Categories of Child Abuse:

1. Neglect
2. Physical Abuse
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Emotional Abuse

How might abuse show up in your classroom?
Research article:

Adverse childhood experiences and behavioral problems in middle childhood

Authors: Tenah K.A. Hunt; Kristen S. Slack; Lawrence M. Berger

This study provides evidence that children as young as 9 begin to show behavioral problems after exposure to early childhood adversities.
Trauma and Behavior Part 1: “How Trauma Affects the Brain”

Educational Specialist, Laura Phipps

Recommended Documentary: Paper Tigers

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lPftosmseYE
Common Myths and Challenges of Reporting

Myths vs. Facts about Child Welfare

- **Myth:** Child Protective Services always removes children from their homes after a report of abuse has been made.
  - **Fact:** Approximately 70% to 80% of reports result in no removal of children.

- **Myth:** CPS removes children because they are better off in foster care.
  - **Fact:** CPS investigates families, but does not remove children from their homes.

- **Myth:** Existing families together is the top priority, but it's the safety of children that is most important.
  - **Fact:** CPS prioritizes the safety and well-being of children.

- **Myth:** Once removed, your child may never return.
  - **Fact:** Children removed from their homes are often reunified with their families.

- **Myth:** You cannot make a report about abuse that happened in the past.
  - **Fact:** It is never too late to report abuse. The information may still be relevant and it will be entered into the case.

- **Myth:** CPS investigators take all the decisions regarding the well-being of children.
  - **Fact:** Social workers evaluate the safety of the children involved based on certain risk factors. However, the majority of decisions will be made with input and consultation from other professionals.

- **Myth:** Child abuse and neglect often go unreported, which means that the true extent of abuse and neglect happening is underestimated.
  - **Fact:** Professionals who work with children are encouraged to report concerns to protect the child from further harm.

People report every case of child abuse.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES | OFFICE OF CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
Why We Report?

Because ...

- It is required by law, if you are a mandated reporter. Not reporting suspected child abuse or neglect could result in a fine or even jail time.
- You are the voice for a child who is hurting.
- Experts will assess the child’s safety, and the family could receive services that would strengthen their parenting knowledge, resiliency and functioning.
What If We Choose to Do Nothing?

The Long-Term Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect Could Include:

- Damage to the Child’s Brain
- Cognitive Delays or Emotional Difficulties
- Depression and Anxiety
- High Risk Behaviors
- Poor Physical Health
CA Education Code 44691

• (a) The State Department of Education, in consultation with the Office of Child Abuse Prevention in the State Department of Social Services, shall do all of the following:
  o (1) Develop and disseminate information to all school districts, county offices of education, state special schools and diagnostic centers operated by the State Department of Education, and charter schools, and their school personnel in California, regarding the detection and reporting of child abuse.
  o (2) Provide statewide guidance on the responsibilities of mandated reporters who are school personnel in accordance with the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 11164) of Chapter 2 of Title 1 of Part 4 of the Penal Code).
October 1 – 15, 2018 Traffic to the MR Site:

**Traffic is High**

Total Registrants: **13,504**
The Decision to Make a Greater Investment in the Site
What’s Changed?

- Visually appealing
- Narration Provided
- User Friendly
- Content Friendly
- 8 modules
- Most Up-To-Date Information

Visit: www.mandatedreporterca.com
What’s Changed?

- Differentiating between neglect and poverty
- The impact of homelessness on families
- The recognition of child trafficking
- Description of suspected inappropriate relationship between school personnel and a student
- Description of comprehensive school safety plans
- Description of what happens once a report is made

- Whether or not it is appropriate to inform the parent when a report is filed and, if so, how to go about doing it
- Diffusing confrontations (with parents who may be upset)
- Self-care – the range of emotions and symptoms school personnel may experience as MRs

Visit: www.mandatedreporterca.com
Questions?

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