

**Yolo County Office of Education
Head Start/Early Head Start**

Policy: Identification and Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

Performance Standard: The Head Start/Early Head Start program reports child abuse and neglect as defined in CFR 1340.1-2(b) and in accordance with the provisions of California Penal Code Section 11164.

Procedures:

1. Employees are required to sign a Child Abuse reporting form during orientation acknowledging that they understand the provisions of California Penal Code 11166 and agree to comply with its provisions. (See attached).
2. The Special Services Manager is the designated staff member responsible for establishing and maintaining cooperative relationships with the agencies providing child protective services in the community.
3. It is not the responsibility of the Head Start Program to treat cases of child abuse and neglect but to cooperate fully with child protective service agencies. With the approval of the policy council, the program may wish to make a special effort to include otherwise eligible children suffering from abuse or neglect, as referred by the child protective services agency. However, Head Start is not, nor is it to become, a primary instrument for the treatment of child abuse and neglect.
4. Head Start preserves the confidentiality of all records pertaining to child abuse or neglect in accordance with California Penal Code 11166.

Related Regulations: 1301.31 (e); 1340.1; 1340.2; Chapter N-30-356-1 in Head Start Manual, California Penal Code Section 11166

ADOPTED BY POLICY COUNCIL: 6/8/05