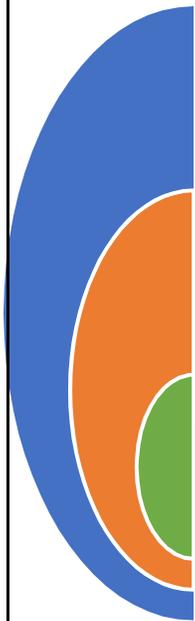




## Assessing Child Abuse/Neglect in a Remote Environment

September 24, 2020



### Build Rapport

- Disclosure is much more likely when there is a trusting relationship. Incorporate activities that foster connection.
- Check in regularly on student's social, emotional, and physical well-being.
- Without creating bias, what does the district know about the student based on previous interactions, effort and ability in school?

### Assess

- What is the student's behavior, environment, affect, and general presentation representing?
- Does the student have special needs or increased vulnerability?
- Remote learning creates a unique opportunity to also develop a relationship with the caregiver for communication and assessment beyond academics.

### Clarify

- Is there an explanation for the presenting concern from the student and caregiver? Are they congruent?
- How does the student indicate that the concern makes them feel?
- Are there resources that should follow up with the student, like a school based social worker? Do other professionals share your assessment?

### Assessing Supervision Remotely

- CT law does not specify at what age a child may be left home alone. Many experts believe that children should be at least 12 years of age before they should stay home alone for an extended period of time and should be over the age of 15 before caring for a younger sibling.
- Children should be able to identify a way to contact an appropriate caregiver
- A child's developmental level, access and proximity to resources, duration of time alone, and level of comfort should be considered.

### Assessing Educational Neglect Remotely

- What barriers are identified that are impacting access/participation?
- Is parent/caregiver directly responsible for those barriers and unwilling to resolve them?
- What level of dependency does the student have on a caregiver? Is this truancy rather than neglect?
- What efforts have been made by the district to identify the concerns and engage in solution focused dialogue?



If you have a suspicion of abuse/neglect of a child that is an immediate concern for the child's safety, please contact the DCF Careline at **1-800-842-2288**.

