

Breaking the Silence
Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Training
Scenario 2

Staring Teacher (EL)

Karina, a 4th grader, tells you that she overheard Ana talking to a group of students about her teacher who often looks at her while she is doing her work in class. Whenever the teacher checks her work, he gets close to her, praising her for her good work, and he once patted her shoulder. She also noticed that whenever the teacher asks for volunteers to distribute materials, she always gets chosen.

Karina is worried about her friend, because other girls told her not to worry about it, commenting that “He likes you because you always do the work.” She knows that the staring, and the one touch are not welcomed by Ana.

Discussion Questions (Approximate 4 to 5-minute small group discussion)

1. What initial actions should you take?
2. Is this information enough for reasonable suspicion of child abuse? If not, what clarifying questions would you ask?
3. Do you see any indicators for possible grooming by the teacher?

Keep in Mind

District Policy

All employees with reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect *must* report the suspected abuse or neglect to a Child Protective Agency (CPA) pursuant to the *Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Requirements*, bulletin.

Reasonable Suspicion Definition

Reasonable suspicion means it is reasonable for a person, based on the person’s training, education, and experience, to entertain a suspicion of child abuse or neglect.

Clarifying Questions

An employee who does not have reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect may ask clarifying questions to determine whether suspected abuse or neglect exists. If an employee, however, does have reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect, the employee *must* file a SCAR without further questioning. Also, an employee with reasonable suspicion *must* file SCAR even if the CPA states “handle it administratively.”

Required Steps for Filing a SCAR

Filing a SCAR consists of two steps:

- (1) Telephone call *must* be made immediately, or as soon as practically possible to a CPA; and
- (2) Written report *must* be filed with a CPA within 36 hours of receiving the information. The CPA will either be the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) or the local law enforcement. Generally, SCARs are filed with DCFS if the alleged perpetrator is in the home, and if the allegations involve an out-of-home perpetrator (e.g., employee), the SCARs are filed with local law enforcement (e.g., LAPD).