**Child Abuse**

Responsibility:

By law, childcare workers are obligated to report suspected child abuse. Consistent unusual incidents with children, like bruises, unusual behaviors etc. are documented in the event that an abuse situation is present.

Reporting:

If there are suspicions about whether or not a child is being abused-

* All unusual behavior, bruises, comments are documented
* The concerns are voiced to MCFD
* If the child requires medical attention for injuries, 911 is called

A case worker from the ministry will assess the situation to determine if the child’s family is in crisis or under investigation already. A case worker will further investigate if they feel it is warranted. A case worker will interview the child/family, assess extend of abuse and move the child to protective custody, if necessary. Every call is confidential and the Ministry may request that the child remain at the centre to insure consistency in their lives.

If a staff member is suspected of abusing a child, he or she will be suspended immediately pending an investigation. A detailed incident report will be completed and submitted to licensing once the parent, licensing officer, the ministry and the RCMP have been notified. An investigation will be conducted if the report finds the staff is at fault they will be terminated and legal action taken. If all accusations are proven unfounded, the staff member will return to work, with proper documentation kept on their file.