

Jessica Redden, RN
Child Care Nurse Consultant
Scott County Health Department
600 W 4th Street
Davenport, IA 52801
563-326-8618 Ext. 8821
jessica.redden@scottcountyia.com



Quality Care For Kids

A newsletter for Scott County
Child Care Providers

Written by Heidi Hotvedt, RN BSN

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To Report
Suspected
Child Abuse:
1-800-362-2178
24 hours a day,
7 days a week

Call your Child
Care Nurse
Consultant (CCNC)
if you have any
questions about
child health and
safety, or any
special training
needs.



[https://
earlychildhood.iowa.gov/](https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/)

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Human Trafficking Awareness Month

In 2018, Iowa had 102 human trafficking cases reported and 24 of those cases involved a minor child. Human trafficking can happen to anyone. Children are a special population vulnerable to being trafficked, particularly those outside of the care of a supportive environment. Minors identified at increased risk for trafficking include:

- Victims of child abuse, neglect or domestic abuse
- Minors living in an unstable housing situation including homelessness
- Children in foster care or the juvenile justice system
- A LGBTQ youth estranged from their family

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic events that can dramatically upset a child's sense of safety and well being. Research has shown that adverse childhood experiences damages the development of the brain and other organs and increases the risk for poor health, learning and social outcomes.

Children and youth with high ACEs scores including child maltreatment and abuse were more prevalent among youths who had human trafficking abuse reports. The odds of human trafficking was 2.52 times greater for girls who experienced sexual abuse, and a 8.21 times greater risk for boys who had histories of sexual abuse.

You can make a difference for children who experience abuse and neglect or if you are concerned that a child is being trafficked. The first step is to report it. **Mandatory reporters are required to report suspected child abuse and trafficking** to the Iowa Department of Human Services at 1-800-362-2178. If

you suspect a child is being trafficked you can also contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. You can also support children and help be a buffer to adverse experiences. You do this by building caring connections and providing positive experiences for children. For more information about human trafficking go to [https://
humantraffickinghotline.org/](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/)

#EndTrafficking
Learn more about human trafficking
acf.hhs.gov/EndTrafficking
If you think someone is being
trafficked, call the National Human
Trafficking Hotline
1-888-373-7888
or text 233733 (BEFREE)
free | 24/7 | confidential
HUMAN TRAFFICKING:
LOOK
BENEATH
THE SURFACE

New Infant Safe Sleep Resources

Healthy Child Care Iowa in partnership with the Iowa SIDS Foundation has two new infant safe sleep resources available on their website:

- Safe Sleep Policy
- Safe Sleep Frequently Asked Questions

Both forms may be used by early care providers for following the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) infant safe sleep standards to prevent sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and sleep related deaths. Both forms may be downloaded for **free** from <https://www.idph.iowa.gov/hcci/products>

For additional information about safe sleep for infants go to the Iowa SIDS Foundation at <https://www.iowasids.org/>