



# MYTHS VS REALITIES REGARDING ABUSE

AISB STUDENT SAFEGUARDING POLICY



Learning about child protection is harmful to your children

Research indicates that developmentally appropriate education makes children **more confident** and **able to react** to dangerous situations.

Abuse is a matter of culture

The reality is that there is **no excuse** for child abuse and **no culture** supports harming children

Child abuse doesn't happen in "good" families

Child abuse and neglect doesn't only happen in poor or dysfunctional families or bad environments. It **crosses all racial, economic, educational and cultural lines**. Many have been abused and/or neglected themselves and don't know any other way to parent. Others may be struggling with mental health issues, marital stress and/or substance abuse problems.

It is only abuse if it is violent or meant to physically hurt a child

Physical abuse is just one kind of abuse. Neglect and emotional abuse can be **just as damaging** and since they are more subtle, others are less likely to intervene.

Most child abusers are strangers

Research indicates that 90% of abuse is from **domestic** causes and is committed by individuals **known to the child**.

It is not my role to interfere in someone's family

The effects of child abuse and neglect are lifelong, affecting future relationships, self-esteem, and putting more children at risk if the cycle continues. Breaking the cycle of abuse is a **responsibility we all have legally and morally**.

Children make up stories and lies about abuse

While children do make up stories, they **rarely lie about abuse**. For further information and research to support this fact, please refer to the following resources: [Stop It Now](#) [The National Institute of Public Health](#) [Quebec](#) [Lyon](#), Mallot et. all

Most children who are abused do something to cause the abuse to occur

The child is **always the victim**. The responsibility of the abuse lies solely on the perpetrator.

Most child abusers eventually get caught and put in jail

Contrary to belief, it is **rare** that a person who molests a child ever gets caught and when they do **over 90% of the cases** never find their way into a courtroom or conviction.