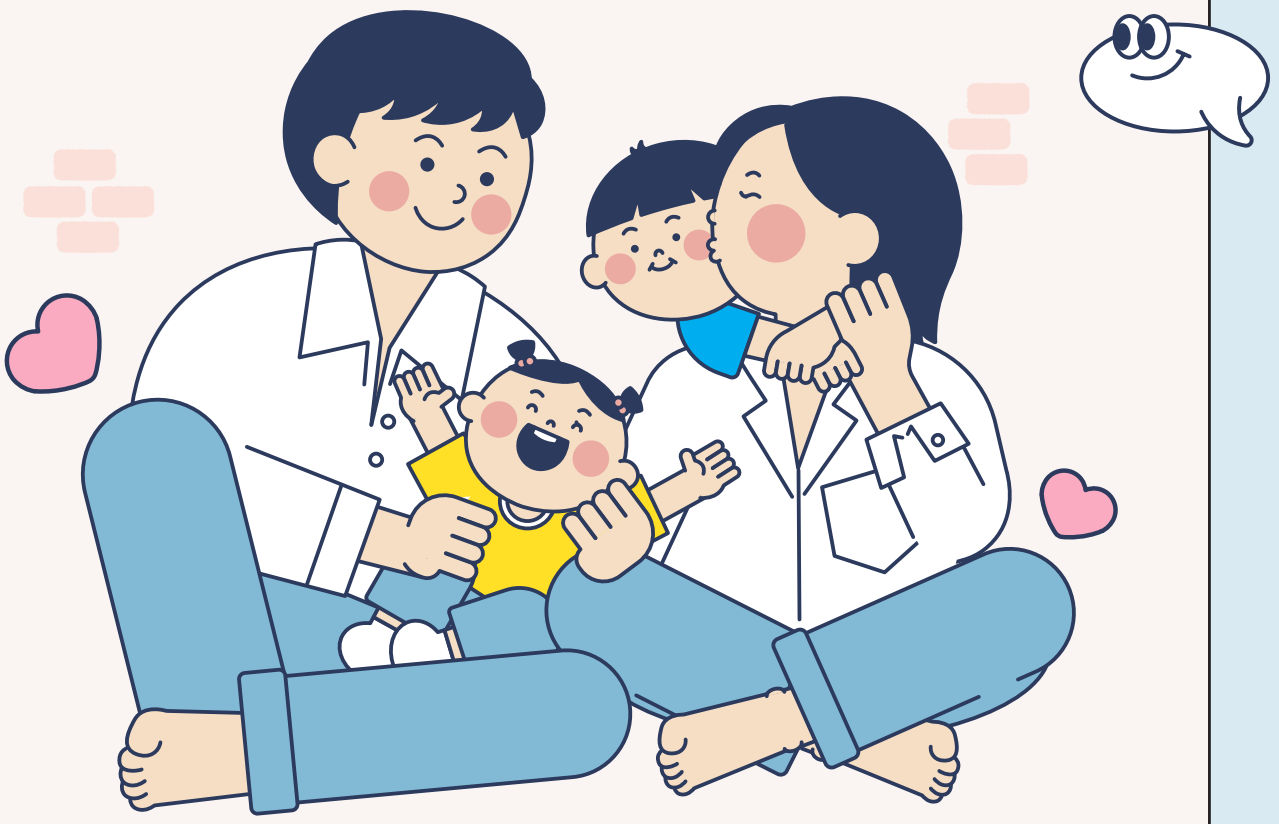
# Positive Parenting, Protected Together

## Raising a Safe and Healthy Child in Korea: A Guide to Child Abuse Reporting and Support

**For Adult**



In Korea, every child has the right to grow up safely. Parents and guardians have a responsibility to protect and raise their children. The government and local communities provide a range of services to support children and families. This guide introduces the systems and support available to parents and guardians living in Korea.

Ministry of Health and Welfare

NCRC National Center for the Rights of the Child

# Understanding Child Abuse in Korea: Definition and Types

Every child has the right to grow up safely, free from abuse, neglect, and violence. Parenting practices differ across countries and cultures. In Korea, corporal punishment is never permitted, and parents are encouraged to respect their children and communicate with them.

## What is "child abuse" in Korea?

In Korea, child abuse means any act that harms a child's growth and development or causes physical or emotional injury. This standard applies to parents and guardians as well. (Article 3(7) of the Child Welfare Act)

## Acts that may be judged child abuse in Korea

### 1.Physical abuse

any non-accidental act that injures a child or harms the child's physical health and development



- Hitting or biting a child
- Threatening a child physically, using an object or force
- Burning a child or otherwise causing bodily injury

### 2.Emotional abuse

verbal insults, emotional threats, confinement or unreasonable restraint, and other cruel treatment of a child



- Insulting a child or criticizing a child repeatedly
- Discriminating against one particular child (comparing, discriminating, or showing favoritism among siblings or friends)
- Causing fear or anxiety in a child, for example by exposing the child to domestic violence

### 3.Sexual abuse

any sexual act involving a child, including making a child perform obscene acts, arranging such acts, and sexually harassing a child



- Watching a child or exposing oneself to a child for sexual gratification
- Sexually molesting a child, or engaging in sexual intercourse or acts equivalent to intercourse with a child
- Making a child engage in prostitution, or arranging prostitution involving a child

### 4.Neglect

failing to provide basic protection, care, medical treatment, and education, including food, clothing, and shelter, or leaving a child unprotected so that the child's life or body is put at risk



- Keeping a child out of school or preventing a child from receiving an education without good reason
- Failing to provide a child with necessary food, clothing, or medical care
- Failing to register a child's birth
- Leaving a child alone at home or otherwise unprotected

## Signs that a child needs help

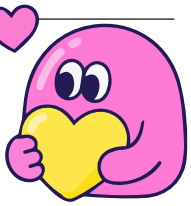
**The following may be signs that a child needs help.**

- Injuries that are hard to explain, or frequent injuries in places where a child would not normally be hurt
- Behavior that is unusually withdrawn or aggressive
- Repeated absence from school, running away, or coming home late
- Constant hunger, poor personal hygiene, or the appearance of being unwell

# Positive Parenting: The Approach Korea Recommends

The Korean government recommends Positive Parenting so that parents and children can respect each other and grow up healthy. Positive Parenting is an approach that respects children as independent individuals and fosters a parent-child relationship based on communication and mutual understanding. The 129 Principles of Positive Parenting below show how to put it into practice.

## How to practice Positive Parenting: the 129 Principles of Positive Parenting





### 1. Know your child

Every child has a different temperament and personality, and develops at their own pace. Watch your child closely.

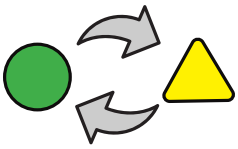
(Example) Giving a shy child time to adjust



### 2. Reflect on yourself

Think about your own traits as a parent and what you could improve.

(Example) Checking your own feelings before getting angry when your child makes a mistake



### 3. Shift your perspective

Ask whether the behavior you see as a problem really needs to be corrected.

(Example) Understanding your child's frequent questions as curiosity



### 4. Grow together

Change your role as a parent as your child grows.

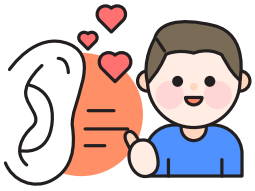
(Example) Giving your child more chances to prepare and choose for themselves as they grow



### 5. Give your full attention

When you are with your child, focus only on your child.

(Example) Putting down your phone while you talk with your child



### 6. Listen and empathize

Listen closely when your child expresses themselves, and share their feelings.

(Example) Listening fully to a child who has quarreled with a friend, and sharing their upset



### 7. Be consistent

Set promises and rules your child can agree to, and apply them consistently.

(Example) Keeping to the bedtime you set together



### 8. Admit your mistakes

Accept that parents make mistakes too, and apologize.

(Example) Admitting your mistake and apologizing first if you lost your temper

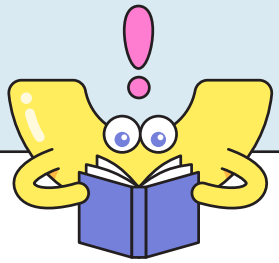


### 9. Raise your child together

Raising a child is not the responsibility of parents alone. Ask people around you or a professional for help when you need it.

(Example) Getting help from professionals, such as a Support Center for Childcare, when parenting is hard

# Who Protects Children's Safety in Korea?

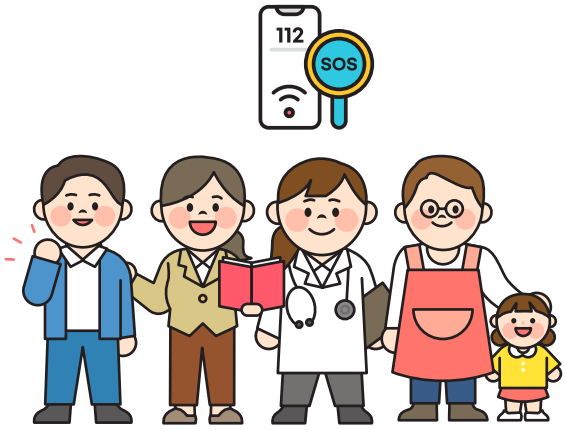


In Korea, families, schools, local communities, and the government protect children's safety together.

## People who watch over children's safety: "mandatory reporters"

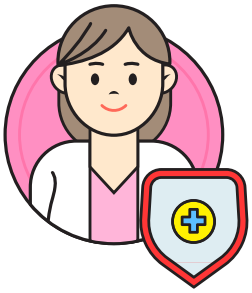
- Teachers, daycare center and kindergarten staff, medical professionals, and others meet children often and check their growth and health. They can request help from the relevant authorities (112) if a child is in danger or abuse is suspected.
- This system exists to check a child's safety and provide the support the family needs, not to punish parents.

※ Article 10(2) of the Child Abuse Punishment Act. This applies to 27 occupational categories that protect children.




## Protection for people who watch over children: "protection for people who report child abuse"



In Korea, the law protects the personal information of anyone who reports child abuse or requests counseling.

No one may tell or disclose to others the reporter's personal identifying information, or any fact that would reveal who reported. No one may be treated unfavorably for making a report. Anyone who breaks these rules may be punished.

※ Articles 10(3) and 10-2 of the Child Abuse Punishment Act



# What Happens When Child Abuse Is Suspected?

Korea's child protection system exists to check a child's safety and provide the support the family or guardian needs, not to punish parents or guardians.

## The child abuse response procedure




### 1. Report or counseling received

Reports and counseling requests are received through the 24-hour reporting line (112).

### 2. Safety check and investigation

Police and a child abuse response officer (a local government official responsible for child abuse cases) visit together to check the child's safety and gather the necessary information.





### 3. Case assessment

The investigation results determine whether the child needs protection.

### 4. Protection and support

- The child receives services such as protection, medical care, counseling, and psychological therapy where necessary.
- Families and guardians can also receive welfare services such as counseling, education, and psychological therapy.

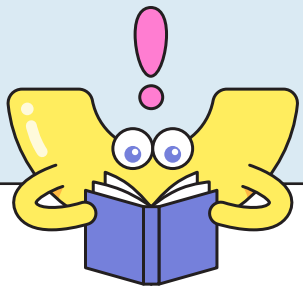




### 5. Ongoing case management

Support continues so that the child and the family (or guardian) can go on living safely and healthily.

## How to Report Child Abuse



You can ask for help at any time if you are worried about your child's safety or are finding parenting difficult.

### Reporting and counseling when you are worried about a child's safety



**Police 112**

Child abuse reporting and investigation

**Ministry of Health and Welfare Call Center 129**

Child abuse counseling; dial 129 and press 6

**Si/Gun/Gu (city, county, or district) office**

Child abuse report intake and counseling;
child abuse investigation and protection support



**Child Protection Agency**

Protection and counseling support for child victims of abuse and their families

**Agency for the Advocacy of Persons with Disabilities 1644-8295**

Counseling, investigation, and protection support for children with disabilities who have suffered abuse



**Danuri Call Center 1577-1366**

Counseling, interpretation, and protection support for multicultural families in cases of abuse and domestic violence

※ You can report even if you do not know
the exact details about the child or the suspected abuser.

# Support organizations for parents and families



## 1 Online support organizations

**National Center for the Rights of the Child (02-6454-8500, www.ncrc.or.kr)**
Integrated delivery of child welfare programs and support for policy development

**i-Sarang (www.childcare.go.kr)**
Information on pregnancy, childbirth, childcare, and daycare center or kindergarten enrollment, plus expert counseling services

**Good Parents, Happy Children (www.mogef.go.kr/kps/main.do)**
Parent education lectures, age-by-age parenting information, and parenting resources

**Multicultural Family Support Portal Danuri (www.parents.go.kr)**
Content on children's education, including self-directed learning, careers and admissions, creativity, and character education

**Bokjiro (www.bokjiro.go.kr)**
Information on welfare programs by life stage, and service applications

**Health and Welfare Counseling Center (129, www.129.go.kr)**
Counseling and guidance on crisis response services for emergency welfare support, mental health, and child abuse




## 2 Offline support organizations

**Central Support Center for Childcare (1577-0756, https://central.childcare.go.kr)**
Parenting services including parent education and counseling, toy and book lending, and play rooms

**Family Center (1577-9337, www.familynet.or.kr)**
Care programs including family education and counseling, family capacity building, family care sharing, shared parenting centers, and childcare support services

**Multicultural Family Support Portal Danuri (1577-1366, www.liveinkorea.kr)**
Counseling for multicultural families and guidance on support programs



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## Finally, To Parents Raising Children in Korea

Korea puts children's safety and rights first, and provides a range of support services so that parents and families can raise their children well.
Ask for help at any time if you are worried about your child's safety or are finding parenting difficult. Korea will work together with you to help your child and your family grow up healthy and safe.