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ADOLESCENT TIMES


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of class (class #)

Physical Abuse

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Do you know anyone who has been physically abused by either their parents or significant other? You may think that the answer is no, however, here are some signs to look for. Is one of your best friends keeping to themselves? Is your relative always wearing clothes that cover their whole body, even in the summer? Do you notice any bruises or marks on their body that weren't there before? These are the signs that they are or have been abused in their family or their relationship. Physical abuse can include kicking, pushing, shoving, throwing, grabbing, biting, slapping, and punching.

According to recent statistics, it is extremely likely that you, or someone you know, has experienced violence in a dating relationship. In abusive relationships, 95% of the time, it is the boyfriend who is abusing the girlfriend.  300,000 to 400,000 times a year. The number of unreported abuses are far greater, because the children are afraid to tell anyone what is happening. Physical Abuse is a crime that some

children, teens, and adults go through. Either they cause it or are victims of abuse.

Most abuse starts at school because of bullying and fighting. When a child has been abused, they may change up their ways. An adult can abuse a child if they are drinking, using drugs or just under stress. Sometimes a teen even makes up an excuse in the streets or school to keep that person from sending 'ACS' to their homes. ACS can help, but they can also make situations difficult in their homes for children and the adults.

Physical abuse is so serious that it can even lead to death. However, abuse is not a drug. You can stop it!

Special points of interest:

- Physical abuse in the lives of adolescents
- Avoiding physical abuse



Trying to Avoid Physical Abuse



In the article "Why weren't you his Friend's?" by Bob Greene, a young man named Curtis Taylor was being physically abused by students in his school. According to his father a group of kids at the school took pleasure out of making Curtis' life awful. Curtis informed his father that the other students continuously bugged his head into the locker. His father said "The kids gathered around and tripped him in the hallways". The kids tormented Curtis, and they ganged up on him when they saw him alone.

Curtis further went to his school to talk to administrator about what was being allowed in the school. He tried to let them know what all of this was doing to Curtis but it was getting worse and the name calling was increasing. Curtis was crying and he didn't want to come to school anymore. Curtis was thinking about suicide and got a telephone number of a suicide hotline. That night at home, Curtis decided that he couldn't take the abuse anymore. He went into the bedroom and shoot himself to death.

Even though Curtis' father's solu-

tion of talking to administrators didn't work, that doesn't mean that it won't work for others who are being physically abused. No one should follow in Curtis' footsteps and commit suicide. There are other ways of resolving this issue.

If you are being physically abused in school, try transferring schools. That is one solution that Curtis did not try. You can also fight back if necessary. This is called self-defense. If that doesn't work, stay close to teachers at all times. If you stay next to a teacher, it is less likely that you will be attacked.



In addition, you can call a physical abuse hotline or see a counselor in your school. Don't just sit there and continue being tormented! It is better to speak out than to keep it inside and bring more stress into your life.

