

Children who experience violence in a close relationship

Some examples of exposure to violence are:

- Being subjected to violence (anything from blows, pushes, violence of a sexual nature, harassment and threats to emotional rejection)
- Seeing or hearing violence
- Seeing signs of violence (for example, bruises, broken objects, fear)
- Feeling the atmosphere in the home

Most children are aware of what is going on within the family even if other family members don't think they know. Children are quick to notice when someone close to them is unhappy or not feeling good but children do not always talk about their feelings. However, the way a child plays or behaves in general can reveal if he/she is unhappy or worried.

Reporting your concern to the authorities

Do you suspect that a child is unhappy or being badly treated? Report your concern to the social welfare services. The social welfare services will investigate the situation, provide counselling and take the necessary action.

Certain professionals are obligated by law to report their concern, for example, people who work in schools, healthcare professionals or the police.

Support and help for children who have experienced violence

Children and their family members can get help from the social welfare services. For example:

- Counselling
- Group sessions for children
- Support to adults in their role as parents so as to safeguard the child's interests
- Contact person or contact family
- Other measures in an emergency situation, for example, an emergency foster home

In an emergency, always call 112.

Contact:

- **Organisation:** Socialtjänst Vårgårda
- **Telephone number:** Telefon växel 0322-600 617
- **Homepage:** www.vargarda.se
- **Street address:** Kungsgatan 45