

# Yelling at a Child is Verbal Abuse

- ❖ **When a parent yells at a child**, they model to that child how to yell back at the parent and others. So when the child starts yelling back at the parent or onto others, don't blame the child or the early teen years, because it's from abuse.
- ❖ **When a parent yells at a child**, especially once the child is a younger teen, it increases acting out behaviors (premature sexual relationships that increases risk of sexual abuse and assault, intimate partner violence, teen pregnancy, use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs, exposure to sexually transmitted disease). So when acting out begins, don't blame the child or the early teen years, because it's from abuse.
- ❖ **When a parent yells at a child**, it affects the child's self-esteem and self-worth. So when the child begins to have more "I don't care", "it does not matter", "it's not up to me" or "how I feel does not matter" responses, don't blame the child or the early teen years, because it's from abuse.
- ❖ **When a parent yells at a child**, it affects their ability to defend themselves. So when the child becomes a victim of bullying or becomes a bully themselves, don't blame the child or the early teen years, because it's from abuse.
- ❖ **When a parent yells at a child**, it affects their grades and work in school and the types of friends they associate with. So when your child's grades begin to fall, have problems in school, and begin to hang out with friends that seem to get them into trouble, don't blame the child or the early teen years, because it's from abuse.
- ❖ **When a parent yells at a child**, it affects both their physical and emotional health, etc. So when the child begins to have physical symptoms of unexplained stomach aches. Repetitive flu like symptoms, acne, onset of depression, don't blame the child or the early teen years, because it's from abuse.



Remember, child abuse goes beyond physical and sexual abuse which are both damaging, but verbal abuse has shown to be equally if not more damaging. Do not allow anyone to "yell" at your child. It is not love or because they care about the child. It's abuse. As a healthy parent remember you cannot change others, but as a parent, you have the power to change the environment in which your child lives. A child is better off in a single household without a harmful parent, so they can live in peace and develop more healthfully, physically, emotionally and have a better opportunity of succeeding in life. If not when that child becomes a teen and starts acting out, don't blame it on the teen years, because it's from abuse. So call **1-800-422-4453** and get help for your child's sake.

And for teens, if your parent "yells" at you tell a counselor, teacher or principal at your school or call one of the abuse hotlines or Teen Line at **1-800-852-8336** or visit **[www.teenlineonline.org](http://www.teenlineonline.org)**