

Terms and Definitions

ACEs Adverse Early Childhood Experiences

Early Learning Professionals are all early learning providers, child care licensing staff, and other professionals in the early learning field.

Ethical dilemma is when you are confronted with two alternatives to a situation or decision and both alternatives seem to be “right”

Mandated reporters are persons or groups of persons who have frequent contact with children and families and are required by Washington’s state law to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect to Child Protective Services (CPS) or to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Negligent treatment or maltreatment is the act or failure to act, or the cumulative effects of a pattern of conduct, behavior or inaction, on the part of the child’s parent, legal custodian, guardian or caregiver that shows a serious disregard of the consequences to the child and creates a clear and present danger to the child’s health, welfare, or safety.

Physical abuse is the non-accidental infliction of physical injury on or physical mistreatment of a child.

RCW means Revised Code of Washington

Sexual abuse is committing or allowing to be committed any sexual offense against a child as defined in the criminal code.

Sexual exploitation includes, but is not limited to, such actions as allowing, permitting, compelling, encouraging, aiding or otherwise causing a child to engage in prostitution; sexually explicit, obscene or pornographic activity to be photographed, filmed or electronically reproduced or transmitted; or sexually explicit, obscene or pornographic activity as part of a live performance, or for the benefit of sexual gratification of another person.

WAC means Washington Administrative Code