

**The HUGS Training Program (Help Us Grow Safely)
Presented by The Athens County Child Advocacy Center**

Have you ever been in the grocery store or other public place and observed a stressful moment between a parent and child...one that left you feeling uncomfortable and unsure how to help?

You're not alone. 50% of Americans report that they "did nothing" when they saw a potential child abuse situation in public, because they were unsure how to help.

The HUGS (Help Us Grow Safely) program is a community based training program that teaches strategies for preventing negative adult/child interactions.

What can you learn at a HUGS training session?

- How to identify the types of child abuse, their warning signs and indicators
- Tips to safely and effectively intervene in a stressful parent child interaction
- A list of parenting and child abuse/neglect prevention and intervention resources in your community

Who can participate in a HUGS training?

Anyone is welcome to participate in a HUGS training session which lasts between one to two hours. We welcome groups of any size.

The HUGS training is highly recommended for the following groups:

- Retail (including grocery and department store) employees
- Daycare staff
- Neighborhood coalitions or Civic Groups
- Faith based organizations
- Child advocates and Social service staff
- Any group/individual interested in breaking the cycle of violence of child abuse & neglect

Feedback from HUGS Participants:

"This should be mandatory training for all employees."

"Getting feedback from others makes me feel more comfortable about stepping in and attempting to help."

"Great discussion of how to help engage families and share responsibilities of safety for children."

"The sharing and discussion reinforced what I do right, and I learned what I can do differently."

" Very informative. I learned to include parents in the beginning process of suspected abuse and neglect. I've never been given that slant. Thank you!"

"Gave me more confidence in myself and advocate for kids."

"As an administrator, I really appreciated the discussion on this intervention being every person's responsibility."

**TO SCHEDULE A TRAINING, CONTACT THE
ATHENS COUNTY CAC AT 740.566.HUGS OR INFO@ATHENSCAC.ORG**