



BRYTE Mental Health and Emergency Safety Plan

This safety plan is designed to address emergency situations that may occur in the home. When any incident occurs always let your coordinator know. Our advisors Dr. Nugent and Dr. Lewis are also resources for support. If you have any comments or concerns about the plan, please reach out to your coordinator.

Dr. Nugent's Contact Information: 330-247-8956

If your tutee tells you that they are being abused and that they feel unsafe at this moment:

1. Validate, affirm, and reassure them
2. Call Dr. Lewis at 444-4471; ask to speak with Dr. Lewis or the physician on call.

If your tutee tells you about a history of abuse (or you have reason to suspect abuse) that is not an imminent threat:

1. Validate, affirm, and reassure
2. Gather enough information to provide a summary to your supervisor (who, when, how often, does the child feel safe if you leave) - be careful not to probe too much as kids can be very suggestible and too many questions can make any later DCYF or forensic evaluations invalid
3. Call your BRYTE supervisor before you leave to be sure that they feel comfortable with you leaving the child
4. Send a PHI email to Drs. Nugent and Lewis: clewis2@lifespan.org and nnugent@lifespan.org with the information you have about the event
5. The BRYTE leadership and advisors will guide next steps

If a child is being abused, mandated reporter laws require you to report it to DCYF within 24 hours. This should only be done after calling Dr. Lewis and Dr. Nugent and given their instruction to do so.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/state/?CWIGFunctionsaction=statestatutes:main.getResults>

If your tutee exhibits suicidal thoughts or behavior, it is important to assess before deciding how to intervene.

If your tutee shares with you that they have thoughts of suicide.

1. First validate and affirm them and thank them for sharing this with you.

2. Assess how imminent this is:
 - a. Lots of kids think things like “I wish I was dead” or “everyone would be better off without me” - gently ask if they are thinking that they want to do something to hurt themselves.

In the case of *passive thoughts (no plan)*:

1. You can also gently ask if they are talking to someone (like a counselor at school, Dr. Nugent, or Janet Kago) about this
2. Send a PHI email to Drs. Nugent and Lewis: clewis2@lifespan.org and nnugent@lifespan.org with the information you have - even if the child says they are already seeing a clinician about this concern

In the case of a child who has *a plan or talks about wanting to hurt themselves*:

1. Tell parents
2. Call Dr. Nugent
3. Always end the conversation asking what has kept them from doing it. This usually ends the conversation on a more positive note.

If your tutee makes an action, or gesture towards suicide, that requires you to physically intervene, you are required to tell the parents and suggest that they call 911. If you are alone with the tutee in the home, call 911 and inform the doctors and your coordinator.

If your tutee is using drugs:

Depending on the drug, when you find out your tutee is using drugs it does not require immediate action. The goal is to get them roped into care with the doctors. In the event that your tutee shares this information with you, reach out to your coordinators for further advice.