The Need

~700,000 confirmed child abuse victims per year

True incidence = 2-3x higher

Young children (0-5 years)
  - Most vulnerable to victimization
  - Account for >75% of deaths from abuse

Early childhood professionals Report <1% of substantiated cases

Evidenced-based training is needed

Online Mandated Reporter Training

Evidence-based online learning program

Interactive, video-based storyline

Designed by multi-disciplinary team of experts

Meets requirements for 3-hour mandated reporter training

Advance training Mobile App with micro-learning activities

Can be customized for other states

Results

Research shows that iLookOut
  Improves Knowledge (1.55 effect size)
  Improves Retention (p<.001)
  Improves Attitudes (0.98 effect size)
  Improves Reporting Practices (p=0.02)

Improvements are sustained after >4 months

>13,000 Early Childhood Professionals have completed iLookOut

Satisfaction with iLookOut = 9 out of 10 (1=low, 10 high)

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iLookOut for Child Abuse

*iLookOut for Child Abuse* is an evidence-based, online program that prepares early childhood professionals to better protect young children.

**iLookOut** is interactive, using a video-based storyline and gamification to engage learners, and has been shown to significantly increase knowledge about abuse, and improve attitudes regarding what is needed to protect children.

The Need:

- Child abuse leads to not only physical injuries and developmental delays, but also mental health problems (depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, etc.), maladaptive behaviors (alcoholism, drug abuse, intimate partner violence), and further victimization of children;
- Even though 10-12 million U.S. children attend some kind of early childhood program, no other evidence-based training exist to help early childhood professionals protect children from abuse.

iLookOut:

- Was designed by a multi-disciplinary team of experts in child abuse, instructional design, early childhood education, online learning, mandated reporter training, law, ethics, and child advocacy;
- Teaches childhood professionals what to look for, and to be empowered and responsible to take action;
- Provides 3 hours of (no cost) professional development credit, meets state requirements for mandated reporter training, and includes handouts and other resources that can be downloaded and shared;
- Follow-up “micro-learning” activities sent to people’s smartphones/other mobile devices sustain and expand knowledge and skills regarding child protection, as well as topics such as intimate partner violence, trauma informed care, and substance abuse—and provide (at no cost) professional development credits.

Outcomes Data:

- Randomized controlled trials (n=741 & 679) show that completing iLookOut A) improves knowledge about abuse, and attitudes regarding what is needed to protect children (effect sizes = 1.55 and 0.98, respectively; B) helps individuals feel better prepared to respond to child maltreatment (mean=6.5, 1=unprepared, 7=very prepared); and C) has lasting impact, with improvements persisting 4 months later (p<.001);
- An open-enrollment study involving >13,000 Pennsylvania early childhood professionals demonstrated the same significant improvements in knowledge, attitudes, and preparedness (p<.001);
- iLookOut improves reporting to child protective services, with significantly more reports resulting in findings of abuse and/or referral for social services (p=0.02);

Next Steps:

- **iLookOut** is ready to be adapted for use in other states
- Future studies will measure the impact of micro-learning on sustaining and augmenting knowledge/skills
- Click [here](https://youtu.be/PAe6-Jm31h8) or place the link below into your browser to see a full overview of the iLookOut Program https://youtu.be/PAe6-Jm31h8
- For further information, contact Nicole Verdiglione at nverdiglione@pennstatehealth.psu.edu