

SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical Signs

BRUISES

- UNEXPLAINED BRUISES AND WELTS
- ON FACE, LIPS, MOUTH, TORSO, BACK, BOTTOM, AND/OR THIGHS
- IN MANY STAGES OF HEALING
- IN GROUPS, FORMING RECTANGULAR PATTERNS, SHOW SHAPE OF ARTICLE USED TO CAUSE (ELECTRIC CORD, BELT BUCKLE)
- ON MANY DIFFERENT SURFACE AREAS

BURNS

- UNEXPLAINED BURNS
- INFECTED BURNS, FROM WAITING TOO LONG TO GET TREATMENT
- CIGAR, CIGARETTE BURNS, ESPECIALLY ON SOLES, PALMS, BACK OR BUTTOCKS
- WATER BURNS (SOCK-LIKE, GLOVE-LIKE, DOUGHNUT-SHAPED ON BUTTOCKS OR GENITALS)
- ROPE BURNS ON ARMS, LEGS, NECK OR TORSO
- PATTERNS LIKE ELECTRIC BURNER, IRON, ETC.

BREAKS

- UNEXPLAINED FRACTURES/DISLOCATIONS
- TO SKULL, NOSE, FACIAL STRUCTURE
- MANY OR SPIRAL FRACTURES

CUTS/SCRAPES

- UNEXPLAINED CUTS OR SCRAPES
- TO MOUTH, LIPS, GUMS, EYES
- TO EXTERNAL GENITALS
- BALD PATCHES ON THE SCALP
- INJURIES INSIDE THE BODY

Behavioral Signs

- SCARED OF ADULT CONTACT
- SCARED WHEN OTHER CHILDREN CRY
- BEHAVIOR IS EXTREME
- AGGRESSIVENESS
- BLANK OR FROZEN STARE
- LIES VERY STILL WHILE LOOKING AROUND (INFANT)
- POOR SELF-CONCEPT
- RESPONDS TO QUESTIONS IN ONE SYLLABLE WORDS
- TOO MATURE OR ADVANCED
- TRIES TO CONTROL PEOPLE AND SITUATIONS TO GET ATTENTION
- ONLY HAS SHALLOW RELATIONSHIPS
- LOOKS FOR AFFECTION FROM ANYONE
- FRIGHTENED OF PARENTS
- REPORTS INJURY BY PARENTS

PHYSICAL NEGLECT

Physical Signs

- UNDERWEIGHT, POOR GROWTH (SMALL, FAILURE TO THRIVE)
- ALWAYS HUNGRY, POOR HYGIENE, NOT DRESSED FOR THE WEATHER
- USUALLY A LACK OF SUPERVISION, ESPECIALLY IN DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES OR FOR LONG PERIODS
- TOO THIN--NOT ENOUGH BODY FAT
- PHYSICAL PROBLEMS OR MEDICAL NEEDS NOT TAKEN CARE OF
- ABANDONMENT
- STOMACH STICKS OUT
- BALD PATCHES ON SCALP

Behavioral Signs

- BEGGING OR STEALING FOOD
- LONG STAYS AT SCHOOL (EARLY ARRIVAL, LATE GOING HOME)
- POOR ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL
- ALWAYS TIRED, LOW-ENERGY OR FALLS ASLEEP IN CLASS
- DELAYED SPEECH
- TRIES TO GET AFFECTION FROM ANYONE
- DOESN'T CHANGE EXPRESSION
- ASSUMES ADULT RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONCERNS
- ALCOHOL OR DRUG ABUSE
- TALKS IN A WHISPER OR WHINE
- STEALS
- SAYS THERE IS NO CARETAKER
- OTHER _____

SEXUAL ABUSE

Physical Signs

- DIFFICULTY WALKING OR SITTING
- TORN, STAINED, OR BLOODY UNDERCLOTHING
- PAIN, SWELLING, OR ITCHING IN GENITAL AREA
- PAIN ON URINATION
- BRUISES, BLEEDING OR CUTS IN EXTERNAL GENITALS, VAGINAL OR ANAL AREAS
- DISCHARGE FROM THE VAGINA OR PENIS
- VENEREAL DISEASE, ESPECIALLY IN PRE-TEENS
- POOR SPHINCTER TONE
- PREGNANCY

Signs in Young Children

- FEAR
- SHAME
- STARING BLANKLY
- MOOD SWINGS
- CRUELTY TO OTHERS
- SECRETIVE
- PREOCCUPIED WITH SEX
- ADVANCED SEXUAL VOCABULARY OR ACTING OUT
- PRETEND INTERCOURSE WITH DOLLS
- LONELY

Behavioral Signs

- UNWILLING TO CHANGE FOR GYM OR PARTICIPATE IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASS
- WITHDRAWAL, FANTASY, OR BABY-LIKE BEHAVIOR
- BIZARRE, TOO MATURE, OR UNUSUAL SEXUAL BEHAVIOR OR KNOWLEDGE
- POOR PEER RELATIONSHIPS
- DELINQUENT OR RUNAWAY
- REPORTS SEXUAL ASSAULT BY CARETAKER
- CHANGE IN PERFORMANCE IN SCHOOL

Signs in Elementary-Age children

- SUDDENLY BECOME ANXIOUS
- RUNAWAY
- SUDDEN CRANKINESS
- BATHING ALL THE TIME
- WEARING MANY LAYERS OF CLOTHES
- STARING BLANKLY
- CRUELTY TO OTHERS
- MOOD SWINGS
- SECRETIVE BEHAVIOR
- LYING OR CHEATING
- PREOCCUPATION WITH SEX
- TOUCHING SEX PARTS OF OTHERS
- HUMILIATE THEMSELVES, OR PUT THEMSELVES DOWN
- SEXUAL THREATS
- PRETEND INTERCOURSE WITH DOLLS OR PEERS
- RAGE, FEELING OF BEING TRAPPED, HELPLESSNESS
- SEDUCTIVENESS

SEXUAL ABUSE

Physical signs in Teens

- GUILT
- ISOLATION
- STARING BLANKLY
- VERY REBELLIOUS
- MOOD SWINGS
- CRUELTY TO OTHERS
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE
- LYING, CHEATING
- SEDUCTIVENESS
- SEXUAL ABUSE OF YOUNGER CHILDREN
- WITHDRAWN (USUALLY GIRLS)
- AGGRESSIVE (USUALLY BOYS)
- VIOLENT CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR (USUALLY BOYS)
- SUICIDAL
- POOR PEER RELATIONSHIPS
- GREAT DEAL OF SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS, OR ABSOLUTELY NO SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS
- PROSTITUTION
- LAYERING OF CLOTHING TO DISGUISE SEXUALITY
- FALLS IN LOVE WITH ANYONE WHO REACHES OUT
- GOES AGAINST PERSONAL VALUES OR RIGHTS TO PLEASE OTHERS

Behavioral Signs in Teens

- CUTTING, HURTING, OR DESTROYING PARTS OF ONE'S BODY
- VENEREAL DISEASE
- PREGNANCY

EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT

Physical Signs

- SPEECH DISORDERS
- SLOWNESS IN PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT
- FAILURE TO THRIVE
- HYPERACTIVE/DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR
- SAD, EMPTY FACIAL APPEARANCE

Behavioral Signs

- HABIT DISORDERS
- SUCKING
- BITING
- ROCKING
- CONDUCT/LEARNING DISORDER
- ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR
- DESTRUCTIVE
- NEUROTIC TRAITS
- SLEEP DISORDERS
- DOESN'T PLAY WELL
- UNUSUALLY FEARFUL
- EXTREME BEHAVIOR
- DOES NOT CHANGE EXPRESSION
- PASSIVE BEHAVIOR
- AGGRESSIVE, DEMANDING
- CAN ADAPT TO ALMOST ANY KIND OF SITUATION, GOOD OR BAD
- BABY-LIKE IN MANNERISMS
- SLOW IN DEVELOPMENT
- EMOTIONAL DISORDERS
- ATTEMPTED SUICIDE