

## Abuse Symptoms

Look for these main indicators of each type of child abuse.

### Physical Abuse or Neglect

#### *Physical Indicators*

- unexplained bruises, burns, fractures, or abrasions (often in various stages of healing)
- marks that look like human hands or bites
- consistent lack of supervision
- consistent hunger, inappropriate dress, poor hygiene, or unattended medical needs

#### *Behavioral Indicators*

- self-destructive behavior
- extremes of aggression or withdrawal
- dislike of physical contact
- inappropriate clothing for the weather to cover body
- report that no caretaker is at home
- fatigue and listlessness
- stealing or begging for food

### Emotional Abuse

#### *Physical Indicators*

- delayed physical development
- speech disorders
- substance abuse

#### *Behavioral Indicators*

- developmental delays
- withdrawal, depression, or listlessness
- inability to trust adults or peers
- passive or aggressive behavioral extremes

### Sexual Abuse

#### *Physical Indicators*

- torn, stained, or bloody underwear
- irritation of the mouth, genital, or anal area
- venereal disease or frequent infections
- difficulty sitting or walking

#### *Behavioral Indicators*

- inappropriate sex play, acting out, seductiveness, or promiscuity
- sudden changes in school performance, appetite, or self-worth
- excessive clinging, fear of being left alone, or impaired trust
- withdrawal, depression, or hysteria
- suicide attempts or running away