



SEE: How to Recognize

Learn to recognize the signs of child abuse and neglect. The presence of a single sign does not prove child abuse is occurring in a family; however, when these signs appear repeatedly or in combination, take a closer look at the situation and consider the possibility of child abuse.

THE BEHAVIORS BELOW ARE NOT GUARANTEES OF ABUSE
They are signs to consider the possibility that abuse is happening.

WHAT YOU MAY SEE FROM CHILDREN	
Common Indicators of Physical Abuse	Common Indicators of Neglect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unexplained burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, or black eyes. • Fading bruises or other marks noticeable after an absence from school. • Frightened of the parents and protests or cries when it is time to go home. • Shrinks at the approach of adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is frequently absent from school. • Begs or steals food or money. • Lacks needed medical or dental care, immunizations, or glasses. • Is consistently dirty and has severe body odor. • Lacks sufficient clothing for the weather. • Abuses alcohol or other drugs. • States that there is no one at home to provide care.
Common Indicators of Emotional Abuse	Common Indicators of Sexual Abuse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows extremes in behavior, such as overly compliant or demanding behavior, extreme passivity, or aggression. • Is either inappropriately adult (parenting other children, for example) or inappropriately infantile (frequently rocking or head-banging, for example). • Is delayed in physical or emotional development. • Has attempted suicide. • Reports a lack of attachment to the parent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has difficulty walking or sitting. • Suddenly refuses to change for gym or to participate in physical activities. • Reports of nightmares or bedwetting. • Experiences a sudden change in appetite. • Demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior. • Becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease, particularly if under age 14. • Runs away.
<p><i>Author: National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information (DHHS)</i></p>	



CONTINUED

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WHAT YOU MAY SEE FROM PARENTS OR ADULT CAREGIVERS.....	
Common Indicators of Physical Abuse	Common Indicators of Neglect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers conflicting, unconvincing, or no explanation for the child's injury. • Describes the child as "evil," or in some other very negative way. • Uses harsh physical discipline with the child. • Has a history of abuse as a child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appears to be indifferent to the child. • Seems apathetic or depressed. • Behaves irrationally or in a bizarre manner. • Is abusing alcohol or other drugs.
Common Indicators of Emotional Abuse	Common Indicators of Sexual Abuse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constantly blames, belittles, or berates the child. • Is unconcerned about the child and refuses to consider offers of help for the child's problems. • Overtly rejects the child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is unduly protective of the child or severely limits the child's contact with other children, especially of the opposite sex. • Is secretive and isolated. • Is jealous or controlling with family members.
<p><i>Author: National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information (DHHS)</i></p>	