

# Physical and Behavioral Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect



	Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
PHYSICAL ABUSE	<p><b>Unexplained bruises and welts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On face, lips, mouth</li> <li>▪ On torso, back, buttocks, thighs</li> <li>▪ In various stages of healing</li> <li>▪ Cluster, forming regular patterns</li> <li>▪ Reflecting shape of article used to inflict (electric cord, belt buckle)</li> <li>▪ On several different surface areas</li> <li>▪ Regularly appear after absence, weekend or vacation</li> </ul> <p><b>Unexplained burns:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cigar, cigarette burns, especially on soles, palms, back or buttocks</li> <li>▪ Immersion burns (sock-like, glove-like doughnut shaped on buttocks or genitalia)</li> <li>▪ Patterned like electric burner, iron, etc.</li> <li>▪ Rope burns on arms, legs, neck or torso</li> </ul> <p><b>Unexplained fractures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To skull, nose, facial structure</li> <li>▪ In various stages of healing</li> <li>▪ Multiple or spiral fractures</li> </ul> <p><b>Unexplained laceration or abrasions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To mouth, lips, gums, eyes</li> <li>▪ To external genitalia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wary of adult contacts</li> <li>▪ Apprehensive when other children cry</li> <li>▪ Behavioral extremes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Aggressiveness</li> <li>– Withdrawal</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Frightened of parents</li> <li>▪ Afraid to go home</li> <li>▪ Reports injury by parents</li> </ul>
PHYSICAL NEGLECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consistent hunger, poor hygiene, inappropriate dress</li> <li>▪ Consistent lack of supervision, especially in dangerous activities or long periods</li> <li>▪ Constant fatigue or listlessness</li> <li>▪ Unattended physical problems or medical needs</li> <li>▪ Abandonment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Begging, stealing food</li> <li>▪ Extended stays at school (early arrival and late departure)</li> <li>▪ Constantly falling asleep in class</li> <li>▪ Alcohol or drug abuse</li> <li>▪ Delinquency (e.g. thefts)</li> <li>▪ States there is no caregiver</li> </ul>
SEXUAL ABUSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Difficulty in walking or sitting</li> <li>▪ Torn, stained or bloody underclothing</li> <li>▪ Pain or itching in genital area</li> <li>▪ Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia, vaginal or anal areas</li> <li>▪ Venereal disease, especially in pre-teens</li> <li>▪ Pregnancy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unwilling to change for gym or participate in PE</li> <li>▪ Withdrawn, fantasy or infantile behavior</li> <li>▪ Bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual behavior or knowledge</li> <li>▪ Poor peer relationships</li> <li>▪ Delinquent or run away</li> <li>▪ Reports sexual assault by caregiver</li> </ul>
EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Habit disorders (sucking, biting, rocking, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Conduct disorders (antisocial, destructible, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Neurotic traits (sleep disorders, speech disorders, inhibition of play)</li> <li>▪ Psychoneurotic reactions (hysteria, obsession, compulsion, phobias, hypochondria)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Behavior extremes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliant, passive    • Aggressive, demanding</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Overly adoptive behavior: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inappropriately adult    • Inappropriately infant</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Attempted suicide</li> </ul>