

Physical and Behavioral Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect

TYPES OF ABUSE/NEGLECT	PHYSICAL INDICATORS	BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS
PHYSICAL ABUSE	Unexplained bruises and welts:	Wary of adult contacts
	-on face, lips, mouth, torso, back, buttocks, thighs	Apprehensive when other children cry
	-in various stages of healing	Behavioral extremes:
	-clustered, forming regular patterns	-aggressiveness, or withdrawal
	-reflecting shape of article used to inflict abuse (electric cord, belt buckle)	Frightened of parents
	-on several different surface areas	Afraid to go home
	-regularly appear after absence, weekend or vacation	Reports injury by parents
	Unexplained burns:	
	-cigar, cigarette burns, especially on soles, palms, back or buttocks	
	-immersion burns (sock-like, glove-like, doughnut-shaped on buttocks or genitalia)	
	-patterned like electric burner, iron, etc.	
	-rope burns on arms, legs, neck or torso	
	Unexplained fractures:	
	-to skull, nose, facial structure	
	-in various stages of healing	
-multiple or spiral fractures		
Unexplained lacerations or abrasions:		
-to mouth, lips, gums, eyes		
-to external genitalia		
PHYSICAL NEGLECT	Consistent hunger, poor hygiene, inappropriate dress	Begging, stealing food
	Consistent lack of supervision, especially in dangerous activities or long periods	Extended stays at the family day care home (early arrival and late departure)
	Constant fatigue or listlessness	Constantly falling asleep in program activities
	Unattended physical problems or medical needs	States there is no caretaker
	Abandonment	
SEXUAL ABUSE	Difficulty in walking or sitting	Unwilling to change clothing when wet or soiled
	Torn, stained or bloody underclothing	Withdrawal, fantasy or infantile behavior, inappropriate to age
	Pain or itching in genital area	
	Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia, vaginal or anal areas	Bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual behavior or knowledge
	Venereal disease, especially in pre-teens	Poor peer relationships
EMOTIONAL MALTREATMENT	Pregnancy	Reports sexual assault by caretaker
	Habit disorders (sucking, biting, rocking, etc.) inappropriate to age	Behavior extremes: -compliant, passive or aggressive, demanding
	Neurotic traits (sleep disorders, speech disorders, inhibition of play)	Conduct disorders (antisocial, destructive, etc.)
	Psychoneurotic reactions (hysteria, obsession, compulsion, phobias, hypochondria)	Overly adaptive behavior: -inappropriately adult or infant
	Developmental lags (physical, mental, emotional)	