

Physical and Behavioral Indicators of Child Abuse and Neglect

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Type of CA/N	Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
Physical Abuse	<p>Unexplained Bruises and Welts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • face, lips, mouth • torso, back, buttocks, thighs • various stages of healing • clustered, regular patterns • reflecting shape of article used to inflict (e.g. buckle) • on several different areas • regular appearance after absence, weekend, vacation <p>Unexplained Burns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cigarette, cigar burns, esp. on soles, palms, back, buttocks • immersion burns (sock or glove-like, circular, on buttocks or genitalia) • patterned: electric burner, iron • rope burns on arms, legs, or torso <p>Unexplained Fractures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skull, nose, facial structures • in various stages of healing • multiple or spiral fractures <p>Unexplained Laceration or Abrasion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to mouth, lips, gingiva, eyes • to external genitalia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wary of adult contacts • Apprehensive when others cry • Behavioral extremes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aggressive • withdrawn • Frightened of parents • Afraid to go home • Reports injury by parents
Physical Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constant hunger, poor hygiene, inappropriate dress • Consistent lack of supervision, esp., in dangerous situations or for long periods • Unattended physical problems or medical/dental needs • Abandonment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begging; stealing food • Extended stays at school, early arrival, late departure • Constant fatigue, falling asleep in class • Alcohol or drug abuse • Delinquency (e.g. thefts) • Says there is no caretaker
Sexual Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty in walking or sitting • Torn, stained, bloody underwear • Pain or itching in genital area • Bruises or bleeding on external genitalia, vaginal, or anal areas • Venereal disease, esp. in pre-teen • Pregnancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unwilling to change for PE • Withdrawal, fantasy or infantile behavior • Bizarre, sophisticated sexual knowledge or behavior • Poor peer relationship • Delinquency; runaways • reports sexual assault by caretaker
Emotional Maltreatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech disorders • Lags in physical development • Failure to thrive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habit disorders (sucking, biting, rocking, etc.) • Conduct disorders (antisocial, destructive) • Neurotic traits (sleep disorders, inhibited play) • Psychoneurotic behaviors (hysteria, phobia, obsession, compulsion, hypochondria) • Behavior extremes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliant, passive • Aggressive, demanding • Overly adaptive behavior: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriately adult • Inappropriately infantile • Developmental lags (physical or mental) • Attempted suicide