



## Common Signs and Symptoms of Abuse and Neglect

### **Physical Abuse**

#### **Physical Signs**

Bruises and welts: on face, lips, mouth, torso, back, buttocks, thighs in various stages of healing.

Burns/ bite marks/injuries to both eyes or cheeks

“Grab-marks”/fractures/ head injuries

Lacerations or abrasions

#### **Behavior Symptoms**

Fear of parents and/or fear of going home

Reports of injury by parents

Wariness toward adult contact

May wear concealing clothing to hide bruises or injuries

Manifestations of low self-esteem

Suicide attempts

### **Signs of Neglect**

Young children routinely left alone at home

Lags in physical development

Poor hygiene

Inappropriate dress for the weather

Constant hunger

Malnourished appearance

Lack of needed medical care

### **Sexual Abuse**

#### **Physical Signs**

Difficulty in walking or sitting

Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing

Pain or itching in genital area

Painful discharge of urine and/or repeated urinary infections

Venereal diseases, especially in preteens

Pregnancy, especially in early adolescent years

### **Behavioral Symptoms**

Sexualized behavior; sexual knowledge that is beyond their age

Fear of being alone with specific adults

Increased startle response

Imitating sexual behavior with dolls or peers

Changes in mood and /or social behavior

Increase in regressive behaviors, such as bedwetting after fully toilet trained

### **Emotional Abuse**

#### **Behavioral Symptoms**

Trouble sleeping

Inhibition of play, fighting or other aggressive behaviors with peers or often younger children

Behavior extremes (compliant, passive, aggressive, demanding, overly adaptive behavior, inappropriately adult, inappropriately infantile)

Developmental lags (mental, emotional)

Poor grades, truancy

Suicide attempts

Very poor self-esteem and self-image