

How to Tell if Your Child has Been a Victim of Abuse

PHYSICAL INDICATORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

- ✓ Excessive masturbatory behavior
- ✓ Desires/attempts to touch others' genitals
- ✓ Difficulty walking or sitting
- ✓ Pain, swelling, or itching in the genital area
- ✓ Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- ✓ Bruises or bleeding in the genital area
- ✓ Sexually transmitted or venereal disease in young children
- ✓ Pregnancy

EMOTIONAL BEHAVIOR THAT RESULT FROM ABUSE

- ✓ Major change in normal behavior or mood
- ✓ Reluctance/fear of being alone with certain individuals
- ✓ Bedwetting in children who are past this stage already
- ✓ Habit disorders (rocking, sucking, biting)
- ✓ Inappropriate, sexually suggestive behavior (revealing clothing)
- ✓ Inappropriate sex play or premature understanding of sex
- ✓ Delinquency, especially in adolescents
- ✓ Role reversal, overly concerned for siblings
- ✓ Frequent complaints of physical pain with no indication of any problem

INDICATORS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

- ✓ Fractures, lacerations, or abrasions particularly when explanation does not match injury
- ✓ Burns or bruises in an unusual pattern
- ✓ Injuries involving the backs of the hands, buttocks, genital area, abdomen, back, or sides of the body (particularly the face)
- ✓ Evidence of delayed or inappropriate treatment for injuries