## Physical and Behavioral Indicators of Abuse[1]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Abuse</th>
<th>Physical Indicators</th>
<th>Behavioral Indicators</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Physical Abuse | • Unexplained bruises (in various stages of healing)  
• Unexplained burns, especially cigarette burns or immersion burns  
• Unexplained fractures, lacerations, or abrasions  
• Swollen areas  
• Evidence of delayed or inappropriate treatment for injuries | • Self-destructive  
• Withdrawn and/or aggressive—behavioral extremes  
• Arrives at school early or stays late as if afraid to be at home  
• Chronic runaway (adolescents)  
• Complains of soreness or moves uncomfortably  
• Wears clothing inappropriate to weather, to cover body  
• Bizarre explanation of injuries  
• Wary of adult contact |
| Neglect | • Abandonment  
• Unattended medical needs  
• Consistent lack of supervision  
• Consistent hunger, inappropriate dress, poor hygiene  
• Lice, distended stomach, emaciated  
• Inadequate nutrition | • Regularly displays fatigue or listlessness, falls asleep in class  
• Steals food, begs from classmates  
• Reports that no caretaker is at home  
• Frequently absent or tardy  
• Self-destructive  
• School dropout (adolescents)  
• Extreme loneliness and need for affection |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sexual Abuse</th>
<th>Sexual abuse may be non-touching (obscene language, pornography, exposure) or touching (fondling, molesting, oral sex, intercourse)</th>
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</table>
|              | • Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing  
|              | • Pain, swelling, or itching in the genital area  
|              | • Difficulty walking or sitting  
|              | • Bruises or bleeding in the genital area  
|              | • Venereal disease  
|              | • Frequent urinary or yeast infections |
| Emotional Abuse | Emotional abuse may be name-calling, insults, put-downs, etc., or it may be terrorization, isolation, humiliation, rejection, corruption, ignoring |
|              | • Speech disorders  
|              | • Delayed physical development  
|              | • Substance abuse  
|              | • Ulcers, asthma, severe allergies |
|              | • Excessive seductiveness  
|              | • Role reversal, overly concerned for siblings  
|              | • Massive weight change  
|              | • Suicide attempts (especially adolescents)  
|              | • Inappropriate sex play or premature understanding of sex  
|              | • Threatened by physical contact, closeness |