

Indicators of Child Maltreatment

	Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
Physical Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> unexplained bruises (<i>in various stages of healing</i>), welts, human bite marks unexplained burns, especially cigarette burns or immersion burns (<i>glove like</i>) unexplained fractures, lacerations, or abrasions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> self-destructive withdrawn or aggressive-behavioral extremes uncomfortable with physical contact arrives at school early or stays late as if afraid to be at home chronic runaway complains of soreness or moves with discomfort wears clothing inappropriate to weather to cover body
Physical Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> abandonment unattended medical needs consistent lack of supervision inappropriate dress, poor hygiene. consistent hunger, distended stomach, emaciated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> regularly displays fatigue or listlessness, falls asleep in class steals food, begs from classmates reports no caretaker is at home frequently absent or tardy self-destructive school dropout
Sexual Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> torn, stained, or bloody underclothing pain or itching in genital area difficulty walking or sitting bruises or bleeding in external genitalia venereal disease frequent urinary or yeast infections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> withdrawal, chronic depression excessive seductiveness role reversal, overly concerned for siblings poor self-esteem peer problems, lack of involvement massive weight change suicide attempts hysteria, lack of emotional control sudden school difficulties inappropriate sex play or premature understanding of sex threatened by physical contact, closeness
Emotional Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> speech disorders delayed physical development substance abuse ulcers, asthma, severe allergies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> habit disorders (<i>sucking, rocking</i>) antisocial, destructive neurotic traits (<i>speech disorders, inhibition of play</i>) passive or aggressive-behavioral extremes delinquent behavior developmentally delayed

It is important to remember that even if you see signs, this does not necessarily mean a child has been abused. The signs will vary according to the type of abuse, the intensity, and the age of the child.

Some children who are abused display no signs. For this reason, it is important to listen carefully to any child who tells you about an act of abuse and to be aware of unexplained changes in the behavior of children with whom you have regular contact.

Prince William County Department of Social Services
 A. J. Ferlazzo Building
 15941 Cardinal Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22191
 (703) 792-4300