

# Child Abuse Indicators

## Physical Abuse:

Bruises  
Burns  
Lacerations  
Missing, loosened, or chipped teeth  
Fractures/dislocations  
Human bite marks  
Bald patches on the scalp  
Overly compliant to avoid confrontation  
Fearful of physical contact  
Becomes apprehensive when other children cry  
Timid, easily frightened  
Craves affection  
Manipulates adults to get attention  
Hurts other children  
Has rage-filled tantrums  
States he/she is afraid to go home, or cries when it is time to go home  
Wears inappropriate clothing (in order to hide physical injuries)  
Explanation of injury seems vague or confused, stories conflict

## Neglect:

Underweight, poor growth pattern, failure to thrive  
Bald patches on infant's scalp  
Flat head  
Constant hunger  
Poor hygiene  
Inappropriate clothing  
Constant lack of supervision, especially when engaged in dangerous activities, or over extended periods of time

Constant fatigue or listlessness, falling asleep  
Poor learning  
Inappropriate seeking of affection  
Assuming adult responsibilities and concerns  
Stating that there is no one to care for or look after him/her  
Unattended physical problems or medical needs

## Sexual Abuse:

Unusual interest in/knowledge of sexual acts, language, inappropriate for child's age or developmental level  
Excessive masturbatory behavior  
Seductive behavior with others  
Attempts to touch genitals of others  
Wearing layers of clothing, regardless of weather  
Inappropriate dress, such as tight and/or revealing clothing  
Continual avoidance of bathrooms  
Excessive clinging or fear of being left alone  
Abrupt change in behavior or personality, such as suddenly becomes unruly, shy, or withdrawn  
Anxiety, irritability, or constant inattentiveness  
Complaints of pain or itching in genital area  
Difficulty walking or sitting  
Torn or stained clothing

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### Optimizing Your Potential as a 4-H Volunteer

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