## **INDICATORS OF ABUSE**

Physical Abuse		
Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators	
•Unexplained Injuries  •Unbelievable or inconsistent explanations of injuries  •Multiple bruises in various stage of healing  •Bruises located on face, ears, necks, buttocks, backs, chests, thighs, back of legs, and genitalia  •Bruises that resemble objects such as a hand, fist, belt buckle, or rope  •Injuries that are inconsistent with a child's age/developmental level  •Burns	Fear of going home  Extreme apprehensiveness/vigilance  Pronounced aggression or passivity  Flinches easily or avoids being touched  Play includes abusive behavior or talk  Unable to recall how injuries occurred or account of injuries is inconsistent with the nature of the injuries  Fear of parent or caregiver	

Mental Abuse		
Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators	
•Frequent psychosomatic com-	•Expressing feelings of inadequacy	
plaints (nausea, stomachache,	Overly compliant	
headache, ect.)	•Poor peer relationships	
•Bed-wetting	•Excessive dependence on adults	
•Self-Harm	•Habit disorders (sucking, rocking, ect.)	
•Speech disorders	•Eating disorders	

\*Remember that these indicators are "red flags" and may be due to unrelated circumstances and conditions. Many of these indicators may occur in children who have not been abused and may not be seen in children who have been abused.

Common Behavioral signs that cross categories (physical, mental, sexual, neglect):

Substance use/abuse

Attention-seeking

Behaviors inappropriate for age

Depression

Withdrawn

Exhibiting low self-esteem

Poor School performance/attendance

\*Certain indicators

may appear as sings of a different kind of abuse from that listed. For example, cruelty to others or animals may be a sign of physical abuse rather than sexual abuse.

Sexual Abuse		
Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators	
•Sleep disturbances	Sexually promiscuous	
•Bed-wetting	Developmental age-inappropriate	
●Pain or irritation in genital/anal area	sexual play and/or drawings	
●Difficulty walking or sitting	•Cruelty to others	
Difficulty urinating	•Cruelty to animals	
•Pregnancy	•Fire setting	
●Positive testing for sexually transmitted	•Anxious	
diseases or HIV	Withdrawn	
•Excessive or injurious masturbation		

Neglect		
Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators	
•Lack of adequate medical and dental care	•Not registered in school	
•Often hungry	•Inadequate or inappropriate su-	
•Lack of shelter	pervision	
•Child's weight is significantly lower than what is normal	Poor impulse control	
for his/her age and gender	•Frequently fatigued	
•Developmental delays	Parentified behaviors	
•Persistent (untreated) conditions (e.g. head lice, diaper	•Delinquent behavior	
rash)	Mistrusting	
•Exposure to hazards (e.g. illegal drugs, rodent/insect		
infestation, mold)		
•Clothing that is dirty, inappropriate for the weather, too		
small or too large		