

Indicators of Child Abuse

- I. Consider the possibility of **physical abuse** when the child:
 - has unexplained burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, or black eyes;
 - has fading bruises or other marks noticeable after an absence from school or play activities;
 - seems frightened of the parents screams cries or protest when it is time to go home from school or the play activity;
 - shrinks at the approach of adults, or;
 - reports injury by the parent of another care giver;
 - has repeated injuries over a period of time;
 - has untreated injuries;
 - wears extra layers of clothing that are not appropriate for the season.

- II. Consider the possibility of neglect when the child:
 - appears less than normal height and weight over a period of time – this is referred to as failure to thrive;
 - is frequently absent from school or play activities;
 - begs or steals food or money from classmates;
 - lacks needed medical, dental care, immunizations, or glasses;
 - is consistently dirty and has severe body odor;
 - lacks sufficient clothing for the weather;
 - abuses alcohol or other drugs, or;
 - the child states there is no one at home to provide care.

- III. Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when a child:
 - has difficulty walking or sitting;
 - suddenly refuses to change for gym or to participate in other physical activities;
 - demonstrates sexual knowledge inappropriate for their age group;
 - becomes pregnant or contracts a venereal disease especially when under the age of 13;
 - has Injury to the genitals;
 - has bodily fluid stains on clothing or body;
 - regresses to earlier developmental stages; or
 - is a runaway

- VI. Consider the possibility of emotional abuse when the child:
 - shows extremes in behavior such as overly compliant or demanding behavior, extreme passivity or aggression;
 - is either inappropriately adult (parenting other children for example) or inappropriately infantile (frequently rocking or head banging for example);
 - is delayed in physical or emotional development;
 - has attempted suicide, or; reports a lack of attachment to parent.