

Child Sexual Abuse Indicators

Physical Indicators

- Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- Unusual odors, bruising, or bleeding in genital and anal areas
- Pain, itching, or redness in the genital area
- Difficulty in walking or sitting
- Pain or difficulty with urination; frequent urination and frequent urinary tract infections
- Vaginal infections
- Vaginal, penile or anal discharge
- Pain or injury to the genitals or mouth (bleeding, swelling, bruising)
- Changes in the anal or genital areas (noticed by physician during exam)
- Sexually transmitted diseases, especially in a child under 13
- Pregnancy, especially in young teens
- Frequent headaches, stomachaches, sore throat
- Psychosomatic complaints

Behavioral/Emotional Indicators

- A statement by the child that he or she was sexually abused
- Fear or reluctance to go to a particular place or be with a certain person
- Fear of certain activities
- New fears - needs constant reassurance
- Shows extraordinary fear of adult males or females
- Any abrupt or dramatic change in behavior; e.g. withdrawing from usual activities
- Apathy, tiredness, or fatigue
- Increase or decrease in appetite
- Increased activity level
- Irritability, moodiness excessive crying
- Clinging or anxious behavior
- Unusually aggressive or disruptive behavior
- Hostility towards adults
- Sleeping difficulties (bed-wetting, nightmares, fear of dark, fear of sleeping alone, difficulty falling asleep)
- Withdrawn: lives in a fantasy world. regresses to babyish habits, such as thumb-sucking
- Losing control of bowels
- Personality changes
- Depression
- Unusual shyness
- Excessive daydreaming
- Loss of self-respect, confidence, self-esteem
- Secretive
- Overly compliant for age
- Shame about his or her body
- Unusual or unexpected response when asked if her or she was touched by someone
- Unreasonable fear of physical exam or of examination of the mouth
- Drawings that show sexual acts; drawings that are scary or use a lot of black and red

- Unsocial behavior
- Dramatic change for the worse in peer relationships
- Has poor peer relationships, inability to make friends
- Avoids age-appropriate heterosexual relationships
- Runs away or engages in delinquent acts
- Suicide attempts alcohol and/or drug abuse

Sexual Behavioral Indicators

- Displays bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge or behaviors
- Sudden awareness of or interest in genitals and in sexual acts and words
- Excessive interest in own/other genitals
- Frequent masturbation
- Acts or dresses in “older” or provocative manner
- Sexually promiscuous
- Engages in prostitution

Parental Relationship Indicators

- Over controlling or over involved parent of opposite sex
- Parent doesn't allow child to have social or peer relationships
- Vague complaints of changes in parental relationships
- Suddenly turns against one parent
- One parent frequently away from home
- Parent has alcohol or drug problem
- Parent is known to have sexually abused a child
- Child takes on parental role with other children in the home or exhibits role reversal with parents
- Child appears to be treated special, receiving privileges and gifts siblings don't

School Related Indicators

- School attendance
- Arrive early and leaves late from school with very rare absence
- Children bury themselves in schoolwork
- Unable to concentrate on work, is frequently sleepy
- Poor school work and frequent absences
- Sudden changes in school performance – better or worse
- Resist going home – fear of going home
- Is unwilling to change for gym or participate in physical activities
- Doesn't participate in extracurricular or social activities
- Afraid of performing in front of others

Compiled by:
 Child Abuse Prevention Services
 811 E. Main St, Marshalltown, IA
 (641)752-1730 www.capsonline.us

