

Child Abuse Unit

Signs & Symptoms of Various Kinds of Abuse:

(things you might observe that should cause the red flag to go up in your mind.)

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE:

- 1. Child bears signs of injury:** Observe for signs of multiple injuries, a history of repeated injury, untreated injuries, and / or extreme injuries. (Younger children may admit the source of the injury. Older children may make up some strange story of how he/she got the injury.)
- 2. Child is a Behavior Problem in School.** Sometimes abused children think that misbehaving is the only way to get any attention.
- 3. Child is very afraid of his/her parents.**
- 4. Child is afraid of physical contact with adults.** (possibly to the point of cowering when an adult simply walks near them, or beside them.)

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF PHYSICAL NEGLECT:

- 1. Child is often Hungry.** May steal food from other children or the lunchroom.
- 2. Child has medical problems that can easily be corrected.** Such as needing glasses; being brought to the dentist, etc.
- 3. Child is malnourished.** (tired often, very thin, pale, poor body tone, often ill)
- 4. Child's clothing is inappropriate for the weather or dirty.**
- 5. Child is often truant.** (student who stays away from school without permission; one who shirks or neglects their duty)

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT OR VERBAL ABUSE:

- 1. Child is hungry, or starving for affection.** (Could be a student that seemingly immaturely, for their age, says silly things simply to have someone listen to them.)
- 2. Child is withdrawn, or overly aggressive, or swings from one extreme to the other.**
- 3. Child comes to school very early and is reluctant or hesitant to go home at night.**
- 4. Child has unaccountable learning difficulties.**
- 5. Child's normal characteristic behavior has changed drastically.**

