

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ABUSIVE PARENT

“Why some people might abuse their children”

Lack of understanding of children's basic needs

Unrealistic expectations of the child

Sense of a personal inability to cope

Immaturity and dependence

Social isolation from friends, relatives, neighbors, community groups

Seem to trust no one

Belief in the necessity of harsh punishment

Fear of spoiling the child

Lack of control, or fear of losing control

They, themselves, have been abused or neglected as children

Difficulty in experiencing pleasure

Misusing or abusing alcohol or drugs

ABUSIVE PARENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARD ABUSED CHILD'S INJURY:

They are reluctant to discuss the child's injury.

They fail to, or delay seeking medical care for a child.

They respond inappropriately to the status of a child's injury. (“Oh it's not THAT bad.”)

Their reasons for the injury seem unreasonable:

- They blame an infant's injury on self-injury
- They offer a slight accident as an explanation for serious injuries
- The story doesn't match the injuries. There is a discrepancy as to how it happened and what the actual injuries are. It doesn't add up.
- A third party is blamed for the injuries.

SOMETIMES... a parent will seek medical help for even minor injuries, normally injuries that wouldn't need medical attention. (a way of asking for help, indirectly)