CHILD PROTECTION

Dial Triple Zero (000) for an Ambulance

CHILD ABUSE INDICATORS

		Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Neglect
Physical indicators	The carer may see.....	• Bruising or burns in a shape or pattern *(eg belt buckle, irons, fingers, cigarettes)* • Injuries in various stages of healing • Repeated injuries over time • Bruising to head and face • Bite marks, welts, burns • Bald patches on head • Fractures or injuries in children who are not yet mobile	• Injury, infection or inflammation to the genital area • Discomfort going to the toilet • Presence of foreign bodies in the genitals • Sexually transmitted infections • Bruising or injury to breast area, buttocks or thighs • Anxiety related illnesses • Frequent urinary tract infections • Start to wet or soil the bed	• Delay in development • Failure to thrive • Failure to gain weight • Bed-wetting • Diarrhoea	• Unattended medical and dental needs • Chronic untreated head lice • Chronic nappy rash • Consistent lack of supervision • Inappropriate dress for weather • Not enough food supplied • Poor nutritional value in food supplied • Delay in development
Behavioural indicators	The child may say...	• Unlikely or differing stories of how an injury occurred • "Someone hurt me" *(perhaps a parent or carer)* • "I don't want to go home" • "I don't want to go with that person"	• Details about the abuse • That they have night mares or can't sleep • That they don't like a particular person • "I want to run away from home" • "I'm not hungry" - frequently	• "I am no good" • That someone says they are "bad" • Mimics what was said to them, to others	• "I was scared last night on my own" • "I have no friends" • "No-one wants to play with me" • Not much at all
	The child may be...	• Frequently absent • Wary of adults and watchful • Overly compliant • Shy, withdrawn, vacant • Passive and uncommunicative	• Excessively dependent • Lacks trust in others • Promiscuous • Reluctant to participate activities • Fearful or startled when touched	• Overly compliant • Extremely demanding • Always wanting attention • Fearful of consequences - leads to lying	• Constantly demanding attention • Begging for or stealing food • Alienated from peers (poor social skills) • Constantly tired, hungry and listless
	The child may display...	• Flinching if touched • Unusual nervousness • Hyperactivity • Aggressive, disruptive or destructive behaviour	• Poor personal hygiene • Scratching or handling of genital region • Advanced sexual knowledge • Playing games that echo the abuse • Aggressive behaviour	• Poor peer relationships • Signs of depression • Inappropriate behaviour for age • Aggressive behaviour	• Begging for or stealing food • Behaviour that takes on an adult role • Irregular or non-attendance

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