

Physical Abuse

- Bruises, bites, burns and fractures which, for example, do not have an accidental explanation
- Burn marks of unusual type, e.g. burns caused by cigarettes and rope burns etc.
- Burns or scalds on the hands, back, shoulders, or buttocks; scalds may be on lower limbs, both arms, and/or both legs
- Sometimes in the shape of an implement, for example a circular cigarette burn
- A bruised scalp from hair being pulled violently
- Multiple fractures or breaks at different stages of healing
- Scarring
- Effects of poisoning such as vomiting, drowsiness or seizures
- Injuries which occur to the body in places which are not normally exposed to falls or rough games
- Bruising to non-mobile children
- Injuries which have not received medical attention
- Reluctance to change for, or participate in, games or swimming
- The child gives inconsistent accounts or is unable to explain the cause of injuries
- Frozen watchfulness
- Fear of parents/carers being approached for an explanation
- Aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts
- Flinching when approached or touched
- Depression
- Withdrawn behaviour
- Running away from home

Emotional Abuse

- Sleep or speech disorders
- Loss of appetite or overeating at inappropriate times
- Depression, aggression, extreme anxiety, changes or regression in mood or behaviour, particularly where a child withdraws or becomes clingy
- Tendency towards social withdrawal and isolation
- Fearfulness and signs of loss of self-esteem
- Uncharacteristic manipulative, uncooperative and aggressive behaviour
- Be overly-affectionate towards strangers or people they haven't known for very long
- Seeking adult attention and not mixing well with other children
- Not appear to have a close relationship with their parent, e.g. when being taken to or collected from nursery etc.
- Use language, act in a way or know about things that you wouldn't expect them to know for their age
- Obsessions or phobias
- Sudden underachievement or lack of concentration
- Negative statements about self
- Highly aggressive or cruel to others
- Running away, stealing and lying
- Being unable to play
- Self-harm
- Fear of parent being approached regarding their behaviour
- Developmental delay in terms of emotional progress

Neglect

- Eating disorders
- Thin or swollen tummy
- Anaemia
- Frequent diarrhoea
- Tiredness
- Faltering weight or growth and not reaching developmental milestones (known as failure to thrive)
- Inappropriate or inadequate clothing, or nightclothes worn during the day
- Living in an unsuitable home environment, for example dog faeces within the home or not having any heating
- Taking on the role of carer for other family members with.
- Sensory deprivation - lack of access to glasses, hearing aids etc.
- Poor language, communication or social skills.
- Frequently left unsupervised or alone
- Refusal to arrange access for visitors
- Untreated injuries, medical and dental issues
- Recurring illnesses or infections
- Dirty skin, body smells, unwashed, uncombed hair and untreated lice
- Untreated illnesses, infected cuts or physical complaints which the carer does not respond to
- Repeated accidental injuries caused by lack of supervision
- Missed medical appointments such as vaccinations
- Skin sores, rashes, flea bites, scabies or ringworm

Sexual Abuse

- Eating disorders such as anorexia or bulimia
- Inappropriate bed-sharing arrangements at home
- Severe sleep disturbances with fears, phobias, vivid dreams or nightmares which sometimes have overt or veiled sexual connotations
- Tendency to withdraw and spend time in isolation
- Bruising or bleeding in the rectal or genital areas
- Torn or stained underclothing especially with blood or semen
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Repeated urinary infection or unexplained stomach pains
- Pregnancy where the individual cannot give consent to sexual acts
- Unexplained bruising, bites or burns, particularly in areas such as the breasts, inner thighs, genitals or anal regions
- Enuresis (bedwetting)
- Decline in academic performance
- The child has an excessive preoccupation with sexual matters and inappropriate knowledge of adult sexual behaviour for their age
- The child regularly engages in sexual play inappropriate for their age
- Fear of being left with a specific person or group of people
- Self-harm or mutilation, sometimes leading to suicide attempts
- Saying they have secrets they cannot tell anyone about
- Substance or drug abuse