



## **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CHILD ABUSE**

The following are a few of the physical and behavioral indicators of child abuse and neglect. For a more extensive list, call the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline, 1-800-4-A-CHILD® (1-800-422-4453).

Please note that the listed indicators in each category may pertain to more than one type of abuse or neglect. For example, "lack of concentration" could be a sign of sexual abuse, as well as emotional abuse. Those indicated in bold lettering tend to be the most common signs and symptoms.

### **PHYSICAL ABUSE**

1. **Unexplained burns, cuts, bruises, or welts in the shape of an object**
2. Bite marks
3. Anti-social behavior
4. **Problems in school**
5. **Fear of adults**

### **EMOTIONAL ABUSE**

1. **Apathy**
2. **Depression**
3. Hostility or stress
4. **Lack of concentration**
5. Eating disorders

### **SEXUAL ABUSE**

1. **Inappropriate interest or knowledge of sexual acts**
2. Nightmares and bed wetting
3. Drastic changes in appetite
4. **Overcompliance or excessive aggression**
5. **Fear of a particular person or family member**

### **NEGLECT**

1. **Unsuitable clothing for weather**
2. Dirty or unbathed
3. **Extreme hunger**
4. **Apparent lack of supervision**