



## **CCEI112A: Child Abuse: Signs of Abuse and Reporting Requirements for Early Childhood Professionals Handout**

### **Welcome to CCEI112A**

Child care professionals sometimes find themselves on the "front lines" in the fight against child abuse and neglect. That is because, aside from parents or guardians, child care professionals are likely to spend more time with children than anyone else. As a result, they are often in a position to identify possible signs of abuse and neglect. Aside from moral obligations, child care professionals are often legally required to report possible signs to proper authorities.

### **Objectives:**

By taking notes on the handout and successfully answering assessment questions, participants will meet the following objectives as a result of taking this course:

- Define the term *mandated reporter*
- Identify signs of potential physical abuse
- Differentiate between various forms of emotional abuse
- Identify the basic characteristics of sexual abuse
- Define major types and identify indicators of child neglect
- Define *battered child syndrome*
- Identify common behaviors of abusive parents
- Identify proper procedures and practices for effective documentation and reporting of child abuse

### **References:**

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**Child abuse** is:

**Neglect** is:

### Child Abuse Prevention in the United States

Let's go over some statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, starting with these two stunning facts:

- **A report of child abuse is made every \_\_\_\_\_ seconds.**
- Almost \_\_\_\_ **children die every day** as a result of child abuse. *More than \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_ are under the age of four.*

As for the **consequences** of child abuse,

By 1968, all 50 states required the reporting of child abuse to child protection agencies.

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was passed on January 31, 1974. This act provided funding for child abuse recognition and prevention programs.

What are the responsibilities of a **mandated reporter**?

The following professionals are considered **mandated reporters**:

- Childcare providers
- Teachers and other school personnel (coaches, tutors, etc.)
- Social workers and child advocates
- Physicians and other healthcare workers
- Mental health professionals
- Medical examiners or coroners
- Law enforcement officers
- Members of the clergy

### What it Means to be a Mandated Reporter

### Commitment to Child Abuse Prevention

**What type of information should be reported?**

**What is the local reporting agency, and how does someone contact them?**

**What happens if a caregiver fails to report suspected abuse or neglect?**

**Will the child's parent(s) and/or other caregiver(s) find out who reported them? What if the reporter is wrong?**

## **Types of Child Abuse**

### **Physical Abuse**

*Physical abuse* is:

Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to, the following physical signs:

1. *Bruises* are caused:
2. A *fracture* is
3. There are three categories of *burns*:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Burns** can be caused by a variety of objects, including:

- Hot objects, such as irons, stove burners, hair-dryers, etc.
- Chemicals
- Cigarettes or cigarette lighters
- Electrical outlets or cords
- Hot water

4. **Lacerations** are:

Here are some **behavioral indicators** of physical abuse:

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Some **emotional indicators** of physical abuse include:

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**It is always important to:**

## Emotional Abuse

**Emotional abuse** is:

The five main types of emotional abuse are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

There are some **physical indicators** of emotional abuse in young children:

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**Behavioral indicators** of emotional abuse include:

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Later in life, perhaps in the pre-teen or teenage years, the following serious **behavioral indicators** may point to emotional abuse:

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## Sexual Abuse

**Sexual abuse:**

Also, it is important to remember that **both girls and boys can be:**

**Sexual exploitation** is:

**Physical indicators** of sexual abuse include:

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Some **behavioral indicators** that may help a caregiver identify sexual abuse include:

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## Peer-to-Peer Sexual Abuse

### Where is peer-to-peer sexual abuse likely to occur?

#### "Aggressor" Warning Signs to Watch Out For

Here are examples of signs to watch for from an aggressor of peer-to-peer sexual abuse:

- A child who persists in physical contact when the other children object.
- A child who cannot leave his or her neighbor alone.
- A child who is physically aggressive with another child.
- A child who does not respond to social cues or redirection.
- A child who does not tend to accept normal boundaries
- A child who seems incapable of stopping certain sexualized behaviors, like mimicking sexual interaction in some form.

#### "Non-Aggressor" Warning Signs to Watch Out For

Here are the warning signs related to the non-aggressor:

- A child who does not want to be alone with another child.
- A child does not want to participate in an activity that he or she used to enjoy.
- A child who's complaining of bullying behaviors. This could be physical or social bullying.

### Neglect

**Neglect** is defined as:

#### Physical Neglect

**Physical neglect** accounts for the majority of cases of child abuse. It includes:

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## Emotional Neglect

**Emotional neglect** is a failure to provide the affection and support necessary for the development and well-being of a child. It can include:

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## Educational Neglect

## Medical Neglect

Some **behavioral indicators** of neglected children include:

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Some **physical indicators** of child neglect include:

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### **Battered child syndrome:**

The signs of **battered child syndrome** include:

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### **Indicators from Abusive**

In cases of **physical abuse**, an abusive adult may:

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In cases of **emotional abuse**, an abusive adult may:

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In cases of **sexual abuse**, an abusive adult may:

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In cases of **neglect**, an adult may:

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### Indicators from Abusive Caregivers

Here are a few examples of behaviors that abusive caregivers might display:

- **Physical/verbal:** Inappropriate disciplining even if encouraged by parents.
- **Sexual:** Inappropriate sexually geared comments towards children and about themselves.
- **Emotional:** Showing favoritism towards certain children and neglecting others based on ethnic background with respect to caregiving.

### Taking Action

**Listening** to a child is:

**Always take children seriously!**

**If possible, have another adult witness any interaction between the teacher and the child.**

**React calmly and respectfully.**

**Interact, nurture, and comfort the child.**

**Ask open-ended questions.**

**Report the abuse to the proper agency and follow their instructions.**

**NEVER:**

## Addressing the Risk of Peer-to-Peer Sexual Abuse

### Importance of Supervision in High-Risk Areas for Peer-to-Peer Sexual Abuse

These are all places to ramp up supervision:

- Places where children remove or change clothes.
- Places where children can spread out, making it more challenging for caregivers to supervise all children at all times.
- Spaces that may be partially obstructed from view.

### Documentation and Helpful Tips

#### Daily Visual Health Check and Documentation

##### *Daily Visual Check:*

#### Documenting Injuries Sustained in Child Care

The injury report serves three important purposes:

1. It shows that despite the accident, the teacher and center are aware of and concerned about the child's well-being.
2. It protects the center from false accusations.
3. It helps avoid the potential for an abuser to lay blame on the child care provider for an injury that was caused at home.

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2. It protects the center from false accusations.
3. It helps avoid the potential for an abuser to lay blame on the child care provider for an injury that was caused at home.

**What should be included in the injury report?**

## Try This!

### Children's Health Journal

As a teacher, it is always a good idea to keep a classroom journal to jot down good ideas as well as notes about activities that did or did not work. It is also a good idea to keep a separate journal to record notes about behavioral or physical changes in individual children. Rather than calling it an "abuse journal," the teacher can call it their "Children's Health Journal."

In the journal, they should record the date, time, and a brief description for each of the following:

- Unusual behaviors or emotional changes.
- Physical signs that seem out of the ordinary.
- Unusual actions or behaviors by parents.
- The names of other adults who witnessed the event or noticed the signs.

***Good documentation is based on facts***, not just the feelings of the teacher. Facts are real events or observations.

## Try This!

### Hotline

Keep the number to the child abuse hotline near the phone in your room or center. Most states have 800-number hotlines to facilitate fast reporting of possible child abuse. There are national hotlines, as well, such as the Childhelp National Abuse Hotline, which is 1-800-4-A-CHILD.

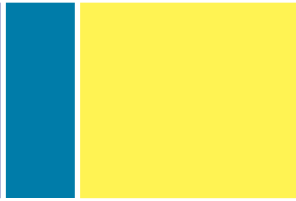
## Try This!

### Practice Reports

Most state child protection agencies have official forms for reporting child abuse cases. Get a copy of a blank form and read over it thoroughly so you know exactly what kind of information investigators will need. Knowing how to fill out the report will help ensure that you file an effective, thorough report should you ever need to do so.

Also, you can practice calling to report abuse with a co-worker or friend. This is an unpleasant topic and is very hard to talk about sometimes. Practice a phone call or two to be more comfortable when reporting suspected abuse.

## Remember



# What Is Child Abuse and Neglect? Recognizing the Signs and Symptoms

The first step in helping children who have been abused or neglected is learning to recognize the signs of maltreatment. The presence of a single sign does not necessarily mean that child maltreatment is occurring in a family, but a closer look at the situation may be warranted when these signs appear repeatedly or in combination. This factsheet is intended to help you better understand the Federal definition of child abuse and neglect; learn about the different types of abuse and neglect, including human trafficking; and recognize their signs and symptoms. It also includes additional resources with information on how to effectively identify and report maltreatment and refer children who have been maltreated.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

How is child abuse and neglect defined in Federal law?

What are the major types of child abuse and neglect?

Recognizing signs of abuse and neglect and when to report

Resources

## How Is Child Abuse and Neglect Defined in Federal Law?

Federal legislation lays the groundwork for State laws on child maltreatment by identifying a minimum set of actions or behaviors that define child abuse and neglect. The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), as amended and reauthorized by the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010, defines child abuse and neglect as, at a minimum, “any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation (including sexual abuse as determined under section 111), or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm” (42 U.S.C. 5101 note, § 3).

Additionally, it stipulates that “a child shall be considered a victim of ‘child abuse and neglect’ and of ‘sexual abuse’ if the child is identified, by a State or local agency employee of the State or locality involved, as being a victim of sex trafficking<sup>1</sup> (as defined in paragraph (10) of section 7102 of title 22) or a victim of severe forms of trafficking in persons described in paragraph (9)(A) of that section” (42 U.S.C. § 5106g(b)(2)).

Most Federal and State child protection laws primarily refer to cases of harm to a child caused by parents or other caregivers; they generally do not include harm caused by other people, such as acquaintances or strangers. Some State laws also include a child’s witnessing of domestic violence as a form of abuse or neglect.

For State-specific laws pertaining to child abuse and neglect, see Child Welfare Information Gateway’s State Statutes Search page at [https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/state/](https://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/).

<sup>1</sup> According to the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, sex trafficking is categorized as a “severe form of trafficking in persons” and is defined as a “situation in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.” As of May 2017, States are required to have provisions and procedures in place as part of their CAPTA State Plans that require “identification and assessment of all reports involving children known or suspected to be victims of sex trafficking and...training child protective services workers about identifying, assessing, and providing comprehensive services for children who are sex trafficking victims, including efforts to coordinate with State law enforcement, juvenile justice, and social service agencies such as runaway and homeless youth shelters...”

To view civil definitions that determine the grounds for intervention by State child protective agencies, visit Information Gateway’s *Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect* at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/statutes/define/>.

**Child Maltreatment reports.** These annual reports summarize annual child maltreatment and neglect statistics submitted by States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System. They include information about victims, fatalities, perpetrators, services, and additional research. The reports are available at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment>.

**Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data.** This website provides information on the performance of States in seven outcome categories related to the safety, permanency, and well-being of children involved in the child welfare system. Data, which are made available on the website prior to the release of the annual report, include the number of child victims of maltreatment. To view the website, visit <https://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/cwodatasite/>.

## What Are the Major Types of Child Abuse and Neglect?

Within the minimum standards set by CAPTA, each State is responsible for providing its own definitions of child abuse and neglect. Most States recognize four major types of maltreatment: physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse. Additionally, many States identify abandonment, parental substance use, and human trafficking as abuse or neglect. While some of these types of maltreatment may be found separately, they can occur in combination. This section provides brief definitions for each of these types.

**Physical abuse** is a nonaccidental physical injury to a child caused by a parent, caregiver, or other person responsible for a child and can include punching, beating, kicking, biting, shaking, throwing, stabbing, choking, hitting (with a hand, stick, strap, or other object), burning, or otherwise causing physical harm.<sup>2</sup> Physical discipline, such as spanking or paddling, is not considered abuse as long as it is reasonable and causes no bodily injury to the child. Injuries from physical abuse could range from minor bruises to severe fractures or death.

**Neglect** is the failure of a parent or other caregiver to provide for a child's basic needs. Neglect generally includes the following categories:

- Physical (e.g., failure to provide necessary food or shelter, lack of appropriate supervision)
- Medical (e.g., failure to provide necessary medical or mental health treatment, withholding medically indicated treatment from children with life-threatening conditions)<sup>3</sup>
- Educational (e.g., failure to educate a child or attend to special education needs)
- Emotional (e.g., inattention to a child's emotional needs, failure to provide psychological care, permitting a child to use alcohol or other drugs)

Sometimes cultural values, the standards of care in the community, and poverty may contribute to what is perceived as maltreatment, indicating the family may need information or assistance. It is important to note that living in poverty is not considered child abuse or neglect. However, a family's failure to use available information and resources to care for their child may put the child's health or safety at risk, and child welfare intervention could be required. In addition, many States provide an exception

<sup>2</sup> Nonaccidental injury that is inflicted by someone other than a parent, guardian, relative, or other caregiver (i.e., a stranger) is considered a criminal act that is not addressed by child protective services.

<sup>3</sup> Although it can apply to children of any age, withholding of medically indicated treatment is a form of medical neglect that is defined by CAPTA as "the failure to respond to...life-threatening conditions by providing treatment (including appropriate nutrition, hydration, and medication) which, in the treating physician's or physicians' reasonable medical judgment, will be most likely to be effective in ameliorating or correcting all such conditions..." CAPTA does note a few exceptions, including infants who are "chronically and irreversibly comatose," situations when providing treatment would not save the infant's life but merely prolong dying, or when "the provision of such treatment would be virtually futile in terms of the survival of the infant and the treatment itself under such circumstances would be inhumane."

to the definition of neglect for parents who choose not to seek medical care for their children due to religious beliefs.<sup>4</sup>

**Sexual abuse** includes activities by a parent or other caregiver such as fondling a child's genitals, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure, and exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials. Sexual abuse is defined by CAPTA as "the employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct; or the rape, and in cases of caretaker or interfamilial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children"(42 U.S.C. § 5106g(a)(4)).

**Emotional abuse** (or psychological abuse) is a pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth. This may include constant criticism, threats, or rejection as well as withholding love, support, or guidance. Emotional abuse is often difficult to prove, and, therefore, child protective services may not be able to intervene without evidence of harm or mental injury to the child (Prevent Child Abuse America, 2016).

**Abandonment** is considered in many States as a form of neglect. In general, a child is considered to be abandoned when the parent's identity or whereabouts are unknown, the child has been left alone in circumstances where the child suffers serious harm, the child has been deserted with no regard for his or her health or safety, or the parent has failed to maintain contact with the child or provide reasonable support for a specified period of time. Some States have enacted laws—often called safe haven laws—that provide safe places for parents to relinquish newborn infants. Information Gateway produced a publication as part of its State Statutes series that summarizes such laws. *Infant Safe Haven Laws* is available at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/statutes/safehaven/>.

<sup>4</sup> The CAPTA amendments of 1996 (42 U.S.C. § 5106i) added new provisions specifying that nothing in the act be construed as establishing a Federal requirement that a parent or legal guardian provide any medical service or treatment that is against the religious beliefs of the parent or legal guardian.

**Parental substance use** is included in the definition of child abuse or neglect in many States. Related circumstances that are considered abuse or neglect in some States include the following:

- Exposing a child to harm prenatally due to the mother's use of legal or illegal drugs or other substances
- Manufacturing methamphetamine in the presence of a child
- Selling, distributing, or giving illegal drugs or alcohol to a child
- Using a controlled substance that impairs the caregiver's ability to adequately care for the child

For more information about this issue, see Information Gateway's *Parental Drug Use as Child Abuse* at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/statutes/drugexposed/>.

**Human trafficking** is considered a form of modern slavery and includes both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Sex trafficking is recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining someone for a commercial sex act, such as prostitution, pornography, or stripping. Labor trafficking is forced labor, including drug dealing, begging, or working long hours for little pay (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2018). Although human trafficking includes victims of any sex, age, race/ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, children involved in child welfare, including children who are in out-of-home care, are especially vulnerable (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2018).

For more information, see Information Gateway's webpage on human trafficking at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/trafficking/> and the State statutes on the definitions of human trafficking at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/statutes/definitions-trafficking/>.

## Recognizing Signs of Abuse and Neglect and When to Report

It is important to recognize high-risk situations and the signs and symptoms of maltreatment. If you suspect a child is being harmed, reporting your suspicions may protect him or her and help the family receive assistance. Any concerned person can report suspicions of child abuse or neglect. Reporting your concerns is not making an accusation; rather, it is a request for an investigation and assessment to determine if help is needed.

Some people (typically certain types of professionals, such as teachers or physicians) are required by State laws to report child maltreatment under specific circumstances. Some States require all adults to report suspicions of child abuse or neglect. Individuals required to report maltreatment are called mandatory reporters. Information Gateway's *Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect* discusses the laws that designate groups of professionals or individuals as mandatory reporters. It is available at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/statutes/manda/?hasBeenRedirected=1>.

For information about where and how to file a report, contact your local child protective services agency or police department. Childhelp's National Child Abuse Hotline (800.4.A.CHILD) and its website (<https://www.childhelp.org/hotline/>) offer crisis intervention, information, resources, and referrals to support services and provide assistance in more than 170 languages.

For information on what happens when suspected abuse or neglect is reported, read Information Gateway's *How the Child Welfare System Works* at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/cpswork/>.



A child may directly disclose to you that he or she has experienced abuse or neglect. Childhelp's *Handling Child Abuse Disclosures* defines direct and indirect disclosure and provides tips for supporting the child. It is available at <https://www.childhelp.org/story-resource-center/handling-child-abuse-disclosures/>.

While it's important to know the signs of physical, mental, and emotional abuse and neglect, which are provided later in this factsheet, the following signs of general maltreatment also can help determine whether a child needs help:

- Child
  - Shows sudden changes in behavior or school performance
  - Has not received help for physical or medical problems brought to the parents' attention
  - Has learning problems (or difficulty concentrating) that cannot be attributed to specific physical or psychological causes
  - Is always watchful, as though preparing for something bad to happen
  - Lacks adult supervision
  - Is overly compliant, passive, or withdrawn
  - Comes to school or other activities early, stays late, and does not want to go home
  - Is reluctant to be around a particular person
  - Discloses maltreatment
- Parent
  - Denies the existence of—or blames the child for—the child's problems in school or at home
  - Asks teachers or other caregivers to use harsh physical discipline if the child misbehaves
  - Sees the child as entirely bad, worthless, or burdensome
  - Demands a level of physical or academic performance the child cannot achieve
  - Looks primarily to the child for care, attention, and satisfaction of the parent's emotional needs
  - Shows little concern for the child
- Parent and child
  - Touch or look at each other rarely
  - Consider their relationship entirely negative
  - State consistently they do not like each other

The preceding list is not a comprehensive list of the signs of maltreatment. It is important to pay attention to other behaviors that may seem unusual or concerning. Additionally, the presence of these signs does not necessarily mean that a child is being maltreated; there may be other causes. They are, however, indicators that others should be concerned about the child's welfare, particularly when multiple signs are present or they occur repeatedly.

For information about risk factors for maltreatment as well as the perpetrators, see the webpage *Risk Factors That Contribute to Child Abuse and Neglect*, which is available at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/factors/>, and the webpage *Perpetrators of Child Abuse & Neglect*, which is available at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/perpetrators/>.

## Signs of Physical Abuse

A child who exhibits the following signs may be a victim of physical abuse:

- Has unexplained injuries, such as burns, bites, bruises, broken bones, or black eyes
- Has fading bruises or other noticeable marks after an absence from school
- Seems scared, anxious, depressed, withdrawn, or aggressive
- Seems frightened of his or her parents and protests or cries when it is time to go home
- Shrinks at the approach of adults
- Shows changes in eating and sleeping habits
- Reports injury by a parent or another adult caregiver
- Abuses animals or pets

Consider the possibility of physical abuse when a parent or other adult caregiver exhibits the following (Prevent Child Abuse America, 2018):

- Offers conflicting, unconvincing, or no explanation for the child's injury or provides an explanation that is not consistent with the injury
- Shows little concern for the child
- Sees the child as entirely bad, burdensome, or worthless
- Uses harsh physical discipline with the child
- Has a history of abusing animals or pets

### Signs of Neglect

A child who exhibits the following signs may be a victim of neglect (Tracy, 2018a):

- Is frequently absent from school
- Begs or steals food or money
- Lacks needed medical care (including immunizations), dental care, or glasses
- Is consistently dirty and has severe body odor
- Lacks sufficient clothing for the weather
- Abuses alcohol or other drugs
- States that there is no one at home to provide care

Consider the possibility of neglect when a parent or other caregiver exhibits the following (Tracy, 2018b):

- Appears to be indifferent to the child
- Seems apathetic or depressed
- Behaves irrationally or in a bizarre manner
- Abuses alcohol or other drugs

### Signs of Sexual Abuse

A child who exhibits the following signs may be a victim of sexual abuse (American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychology, 2014; Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network [RAINN], 2018a):

- Has difficulty walking or sitting
- Experiences bleeding, bruising, or swelling in their private parts
- Suddenly refuses to go to school

- Reports nightmares or bedwetting
- Experiences a sudden change in appetite
- Demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior
- Becomes pregnant or contracts a sexually transmitted disease, particularly if under age 14
- Runs away
- Reports sexual abuse by a parent or another adult caregiver
- Attaches very quickly to strangers or new adults in their environment

Consider the possibility of sexual abuse when a parent or other caregiver exhibits the following (RAINN, 2018b):

- Tries to be the child's friend rather than assume an adult role
- Makes up excuses to be alone with the child
- Talks with the child about the adult's personal problems or relationships

### Signs of Emotional Maltreatment

A child who exhibits the following signs may be a victim of emotional maltreatment (Prevent Child Abuse America, 2016):

- Shows extremes in behavior, such as being overly compliant or demanding, extremely passive, or aggressive
- Is either inappropriately adult (e.g., parenting other children) or inappropriately infantile (e.g., frequently rocking or head-banging)
- Is delayed in physical or emotional development
- Shows signs of depression or suicidal thoughts
- Reports an inability to develop emotional bonds with others

Consider the possibility of emotional maltreatment when the parent or other adult caregiver exhibits the following (Prevent Child Abuse America, 2016):

- Constantly blames, belittles, or berates the child
- Describes the child negatively
- Overtly rejects the child

## The Impact of Childhood Trauma on Well-Being

Child abuse and neglect can have lifelong implications for victims, including on their well-being. While the physical wounds may heal, there are many long-term consequences of experiencing the trauma of abuse or neglect. A child or youth's ability to cope and thrive after trauma is called "resilience." With help, many of these children can work through and overcome their past experiences.

Children who are maltreated may be at risk of experiencing cognitive delays and emotional difficulties, among other issues, which can affect many aspects of their lives, including their academic outcomes and social skills development (Bick & Nelson, 2016). Experiencing childhood maltreatment also is a risk factor for depression, anxiety, and other psychiatric disorders (Fuller-Thomson, Baird, Dhrodia, & Brennenstuhl, 2016). For more information on the lasting effects of child abuse and neglect, read *Long-Term Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect* at [https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/long\\_term\\_consequences](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/long_term_consequences).

## Resources

**The National Child Traumatic Stress Network's** factsheet *What Is Child Traumatic Stress?* (<https://www.nctsn.org/resources/what-child-traumatic-stress>) defines child traumatic stress and provides an overview of trauma, trauma signs and symptoms, and how trauma can impact children. Find more resources that strive to raise the standard of care and improve access to services for traumatized children, their families, and communities on the National Child Traumatic Stress Network at <http://www.nctsn.org/>.

**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** web section, *Child Abuse and Neglect: Consequences*, provides information on the prevalence, effects, and physical and mental consequences of child abuse

and neglect as well as additional resources and a comprehensive reference list. You can visit it at <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/consequences.html>.

**Stop It Now!** is a website that provides parents and other adults with resources to help prevent child sexual abuse. The site offers direct help to those with questions or concerns about child abuse, prevention advocacy, prevention education, and technical assistance and training. The website is available at <http://www.stopitnow.org/>.

**The American Academy of Pediatrics'** The Resilience Project gives pediatricians and other health-care providers the resources they need to more effectively identify, treat, and refer children and youth who have been maltreated as well as promotes the importance of resilience in how a child deals with traumatic stress. The webpage is available at <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/resilience/Pages/Resilience-Project.aspx>.

**Information Gateway** has produced webpages and publications about child abuse and neglect:

- The Child Abuse and Neglect webpage (<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/>) provides information on identifying abuse, statistics, risk and protective factors, and more.
- The Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect webpage (<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/responding/reporting/>) provides information about mandatory reporting and how to report suspected maltreatment.
- Information Gateway also has several publications that cover understanding and preventing maltreatment:
  - *Child Maltreatment: Past, Present, and Future:* <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/issue-briefs/cm-prevention/>
  - *Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect:* <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/preventingcan/>
  - *Understanding the Effects of Maltreatment on Brain Development* <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/issue-briefs/brain-development/>

The **CDC** produced *Understanding Child Maltreatment* (<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/understanding-cm-factsheet.pdf>), which defines the many types of maltreatment and the CDC's approach to prevention.

**Prevent Child Abuse America** is a national organization dedicated to providing information on child maltreatment and its prevention. You can visit its website at <http://preventchildabuse.org/>.

A list of organizations focused on child maltreatment prevention is available on Information Gateway's National Child Abuse Prevention Partner Organizations page at [https://www.childwelfare.gov/organizations/?CWIGFunctionsaction=rols:main.dspList&rolType=Custom&RS\\_ID=%2021](https://www.childwelfare.gov/organizations/?CWIGFunctionsaction=rols:main.dspList&rolType=Custom&RS_ID=%2021).

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