PHYSICAL SIGNS MAY INCLUDE:
- Bruises, welts, or swelling
- Multiple bruises of different colors
- Frequent bruises around the head, face, or abdomen
- Sprains or broken bones
- Burns
- Lacerations or abrasions
- Bite marks
- Unexplained, repeated injuries
- Stiffness, soreness or awkward movements as if caused by pain

BEHAVIORAL SIGNS MAY INCLUDE:
- Has a reputation for being "accident prone"
- Wariness around adults
- Demonstrates destructiveness to self or others
- Fear of parent or caregiver
- Reluctant to go home
- Wears clothes that covers the body in warm weather
- Displays a fearless attitude, often takes extreme risks

SEXUAL ABUSE
Sexual abuse is exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult or older child.

PHYSICAL SIGNS MAY INCLUDE:
- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Complain of genital/anal rash, itching, pain or burning
- Complain of genital/anal bleeding
- Complain of painful urination
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Pregnancy

BEHAVIORAL SIGNS MAY INCLUDE:
- Age-inappropriate sexual knowledge
- Unusual secrecy
- Seductive behavior
- Sudden drop in school performance or in participation
- Excessive masturbation
- Suicide attempts or talk of suicide
- Self mutilation
- Low self worth, talk of being dirty or damaged
- Sleep problems or nightmares
- Sudden onset of wetting or soiling self

Learn more at abetterwaymuncie.org
NEGLECT

Neglect occurs when parents/caretakers do not provide proper supervision, control, subsistence, education, or other care necessary for healthy development.

NEGLECT SIGNS MAY INCLUDE:

- Low self-esteem
- Crave attention or have clingy behavior
- Always hungry, hoarding/stealing food
- Inadequately dressed for weather
- Chronic tiredness
- Have poor hygiene, often wears dirty or ill fitting clothes
- Seem emaciated or have distended stomach
- Cares for younger siblings when the child is under 8
- Obvious lack of medical or dental treatment
- Recurring bouts of lice
- Difficulty coping or problem solving
- Has a depressed, negative attitude
- Frequent absence or tardiness

NEGLECT IS THE MOST COMMON FORM OF MALTREATMENT.

Of the children who experienced maltreatment or abuse, three-quarters suffered neglect; 17.2% suffered physical abuse; and 8.4% suffered sexual abuse.

- National Statistics of Child Abuse
- Information provided by Kids Talk

WHAT DO I DO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES?

DOS

- REMAIN CALM
- BE AWARE OF YOUR FACIAL EXPRESSIONS
- BELIEVE THE CHILD
- THANK THE CHILD FOR TELLING YOU
- LISTEN
- REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE IMMEDIATELY!
- INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES REPORTING HOTLINE

DON’TS

- DON’T MAKE ANY PROMISES
- DON’T ASK PROBING QUESTIONS
- DO NOT COMPLETE THE SENTENCE/FILL IN WORDS FOR THE CHILD.
- DO NOT SAY ANYTHING NEGATIVE ABOUT THE OFFENDER. 91% OF THE OFFENDERS ARE KNOWN TO THE CHILD AND MAY BE SOMEONE THEY LOVE.

Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline

1-800-800-5556

UNDER INDIANA LAW ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS A REASON TO BELIEVE A CHILD IS A VICTIM OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT HAS THE DUTY TO MAKE A REPORT; THEREFORE, EACH CITIZEN OF INDIANA IS CONSIDERED A “MANDATED REPORTER.”

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