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Warning signs of child abuse and neglect



Warning signs of emotional abuse:

- Excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong
- Shows extremes in behavior (extremely compliant, demanding, passive, aggressive)
- Doesn't seem to be attached to the parent or caregiver
- Acts either inappropriately adult (taking care of other children) or inappropriately infantile (thumb-sucking, throwing tantrums)

Warning signs of physical abuse:

- Frequent injuries or unexplained bruises, welts, or cuts
- Is always watchful and "on alert," as if waiting for something bad to happen
- Injuries appear to have a pattern such as marks from a hand or belt
- Shies away from touch, flinches at sudden movements, or seems afraid to go home
- Wears inappropriate clothing to cover up injuries, such as long-sleeved shirts on hot days

Warning signs of child neglect:

- Clothes are ill-fitting, filthy, or inappropriate for the weather
- Hygiene is consistently bad (unbathed, matted and unwashed hair, noticeable body odor)
- Untreated illnesses and physical injuries
- Is frequently unsupervised or left alone or allowed to play in unsafe situations
- Is frequently late or missing from school

Warning signs of sexual abuse in children:

- Trouble walking or sitting
- Displays knowledge of sexual acts inappropriate for their age, or even seductive behavior
- Makes strong efforts to avoid a specific person, without an obvious reason
- Doesn't want to change clothes in front of others or participate in physical activities
- An STD or pregnancy, especially under the age of 14
- Runs away from home

(<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect.htm/>)

For Further information visit: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/whatiscan.pdf>



Student Health Advisory
Council for Littlefield ISD

Always consult your physician with any questions or concerns.; For comments, questions and concerns

Myth: It's only abuse if it's violent.

Fact: Physical abuse is just one type of child abuse. Child neglect, sexual and emotional abuse can inflict just as much damage, and since they're not always as obvious, others are less likely to intervene.

Myth: Only bad people abuse their children.

Fact: Not all abusive parents or guardians intentionally harm their children. Many have been victims of abuse themselves and don't know any other way to parent. Others may be struggling with mental health issues or substance abuse problems.

Myth: Abuse doesn't happen in "good" families.

Fact: Abuse and neglect doesn't only happen in poor families or bad neighborhoods. These behaviors cross all racial, economic, and cultural lines. Sometimes, families who seem to have it all from the outside are hiding a different story behind closed doors.

Myth: Most child abusers are strangers.

Fact: While abuse by strangers does happen, most abusers are family members or others close to the family

Myth: Abused children always grow up to be abusers.

Fact: It is true that abused children are more likely to repeat the cycle as adults, unconsciously repeating what they experienced as children. On the other hand, many adult survivors of child abuse have a strong motivation to protect their children against what they went through and become excellent parents. (<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect.htm/>)

If you suspect child abuse please contact your local authorities or contact the state through any of the means listed: Toll-Free: (800) 252-5400 Online reporting <https://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/Default.aspx>

