

Child Abuse - Steven Shapiro, M.D.

Unexplained bruises and welts:

- on face, lips, mouth
- on torso, back, buttocks, thigh
- in various stages of healing
- reflecting shape of an article (electric cord)
- on several different surface areas
- regular appearance after absence/vacation

Burns:

- burns - cigar, cigarette, especially on soles, palms, and buttocks, back immersion burns (sock like, glove like - doughnut shape on buttocks or genitalia)
- patterned like electric burner, iron, etc.
- rope like burns on arms, legs, neck, or torso (friction burns)

Unexplained fractures:

- to skull, nose, facial structure
- various stages of healing
- multiple or spiral fractures (bone broken by a twist)

Unexplained lacerations or abrasions:

- to mouth, lips, gums
- to external genitalia

Behavioral Indicators of Child Abuse:

- wary of adult contacts
- apprehensive when other children cry
- behavioral extremes - aggressiveness or withdrawal (acts out in mature ways), excessive hitting, hitting with objects)
- frightened of parents
- afraid to go home'
- reports injury by parents

Physical Neglect:

- consistent hunger, poor hygiene, inappropriate dress
- consistent lack of supervision, especially in dangerous activities or for long periods
- unattended physical problems or medical needs (mucous from nose, ear drainage, losing weight)
- abandonment

Behavioral Indicators of Parent Neglect:

- begging, stealing food
- extended stays at school (early arrival, late departure)
- constant fatigue - listlessness or falling sleep in class
- alcohol or drug abuse
- delinquency (thefts)
- states there is no care given

Sexual Abuse:

- difficult in walking, sitting
- torn, stained or bloody underclothes
- pain or itching in genital area
- bruises, bleeding in exterior genitalia, vaginal, anal area
- venereal disease (pre-teen)
- pregnancy
- unwilling to change clothes
- withdrawal, fantasy, infantile behavior
- bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual behavior or knowledge
- poor peer relationships
- delinquent - run away
- report from child

Emotional Maltreatment:

- speech disorders
- lags in physical development
- failure to thrive

Behavior from Emotional Maltreatment:

- habit disorders
- conduct disorders
- neurotic traits
- psychosomatic disorders

Steps to Take:

- talk to the child gently
- report orally to person in charge
- seek medical help
- advise parent of your intent to file a report
- follow with written report
- teacher continue to show support to child and parents