

# Indicators of Specific Types of Child Maltreatment

- Behavioral Indicators in Children
  - *Sexual Abuse:*
    - Unwilling to change for or participate in PE class
    - Overly knowledgeable about specific sexual acts
    - Inappropriate displays of affection or explicit sexual acts
    - Use of sexual terms for body parts
    - Discomfort with typical family affection
    - Withdrawal, fantasy, or infantile behavior
    - Problems in school
    - Bed-wetting
    - Eating disorders
    - Avoidance of sports or games
    - Seeking out or avoiding adults
    - Mentioning a “secret” in the family
    - Unusual changes in behavior
    - Delinquency or running away
  - *Physical Abuse:*
    - Frightened of parents
    - Speech or learning difficulties
    - Wary of adult contact
    - Bed-wetting
    - Negative attempts to get attention
    - Self-destructive or accident-prone behavior
    - Apprehensive when other children cry
  - *Emotional Maltreatment:*
    - Fearfulness
    - Unprovoked yelling/screaming
    - Hyperactive or bizarre behavior
    - Overanxious to please
    - Overly compliant or passive
    - Seeking out adult contact
    - Developmental lags (physical, mental, or emotional)
    - Depression
    - Attempted suicide
  - *Neglect:*
    - Learned helplessness
    - Fearfulness
    - Hoarding or stealing food
    - Extended stays at school
    - Consistently falling asleep in class

# Indicators of Specific Types of Child Maltreatment

- Clingy/needy
- Pseudo-independent
- Regressive behavior
  
- **Physical Indicators in Children**
  - *Sexual Abuse:*
    - Difficulty walking or sitting
    - Injury to or pain around genital area
    - Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
    - Visible lesions around mouth or genitals
    - Complaint of lower abdominal pain
    - Painful urination or defecation
    - Venereal disease, especially in teens
    - Pregnancy
  
  - *Physical Abuse:*
    - Injuries that cannot be explained or explanations that are improbable given the extent of the injury
    - Unexplained burns
    - Burns reflecting a pattern (iron, electric burner, *etc.*)
    - Fractures in different states of healing and multiple or spiral fractures
    - Unexplained lacerations or abrasion
    - Pattern of bruising or bruises in different stages of discoloration
    - Bruises reflecting the shape of an object (electric cord, belt buckle, *etc.*)
  
  - *Emotional Maltreatment:*
    - Habits such as sucking, rocking, and biting
    - Antisocial or destructive conduct
    - Speech difficulties
    - Sleep disorders
    - Obsessive or compulsive behavior
    - Fear/anxiety
  
  - *Neglect:*
    - Failure to grow or gain weight
    - Signs of malnutrition or a poorly balanced diet, such as extreme thinness, bloated stomach, dry and flaking skin, paleness, and predisposition to fainting
    - Constant fatigue or listlessness
    - Inappropriate dress for weather
    - Extremely offensive body odor

## **Indicators of Specific Types of Child Maltreatment**

- Dirty or unkempt
  - Unattended physical problems or medical needs
  - Consistent lack of supervision, especially in dangerous situations or for long periods
- **Parental Indicators of All Types of Abuse or Neglect**
    - Mentions homicidal thoughts/feelings toward child
    - Talks of use of objects to discipline child
    - Tells you about extensive disciplining of child
    - Is unduly harsh and rigid about childrearing
    - Is impulsive, unable to use internal controls
    - Is unable to describe positive characteristics of child
    - Has unrealistic expectations of child
    - Singles out one child as “bad,” “evil,” or “beyond control”
    - Berates, humiliates, or belittles child constantly
    - Is indifferent to child
    - Is unable/unwilling to meet child’s basic needs and provide a safe environment
    - Turns to child to have his/her own needs met
- **Home Environment Indicators of All Types of Abuse or Neglect**
    - Hazardous conditions
    - Health risks, such as extremely unsanitary conditions, high number of pests or vermin, and lack of running water