



Indicators of Abuse

The following is a list of some indicators of abuse, but it is not exhaustive:

PHYSICAL INDICATORS	BEHAVIOURAL INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unexplained bruising in soft tissue areas• Repeated injuries• Black eyes• Injuries to the mouth• Torn or bloodstained clothing• Burns or scalds• Bites• Fractures• Marks from implements• Inconsistent stories/excuses relating to injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unexplained changes in behaviour - becoming withdrawn or aggressive• Difficulty in making friends• Distrustful of adults or excessive attachment to adults• Sudden drop in performance• Changes in attendance pattern• Inappropriate sexual awareness, behaviour or language• Reluctance to remove clothing

Guidelines for responding to a disclosure

DO's

- Stay calm.
- Listen & hear. Give the person time to say what they want.
- Reassure them that they have done the right thing in telling and that it will be dealt with appropriately.
- Record in writing what was said as soon as possible
- Report to someone else in the organisation - "the designated person".
- Record your report.



DON'Ts

- Panic.
- Promise to keep secrets.
- Enquire into the details of the abuse.
- Make a child repeat the story unnecessarily