# PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

<table>
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<th>Type of Child Abuse &amp; Neglect</th>
<th>Physical Indicators</th>
<th>Behavioral Indicators</th>
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| **Physical Abuse** | Unexplained Bruises and Welts:  
- on face, lips, mouth  
- on torso, back, buttock, thighs  
- in various stages of healing  
- clustered, forming regular patterns  
- reflecting shape of article used to inflict (electric cord, belt buckle)  
- on several different surface areas  
- regularly appear after absence, weekend or vacation  

Unexplained Burns:  
- cigar, cigarette burns, especially on soles, palms, back or buttocks  
- immersion burns (sock-like, glove-like doughnut shaped on buttocks or genitalia)  
- patterns like electric burner, iron, etc.  
- rope burns on arms, legs, neck or torso  

Unexplained Fractures:  
- to skull, nose, facial structure  
- in various stages of healing  
- multiple or spiral fractures  

Unexplained Lacerations or Abrasion:  
- to mouth, lips, gums or eyes  
- to external genitalia | Wary of Adult Contacts  
Apprehensive When Other Children Cry  
Behavior Extremes:  
- aggressiveness  
- withdrawal  
Frightened of Parents  
Reports injury by Parents |
| **Physical Neglect** | - Consistent Hunger, Poor Hygiene, Inappropriate Dress  
- Consistent Lack of Supervision, Especially in Dangerous Activities or Long Periods  
- Constant Fatigue or Listlessness  
- Unattended Physical Problems or Medical Needs  
- Abandonment | - Begging, Stealing Food  
- Extended Stays at School (early arrival and late departure)  
- Consistently Falling Asleep In Class  
- Delinquency (e.g. thefts)  
- State There is No Caretaker |
| **Sexual Abuse** | - Difficulty Walking or Sitting  
- Torn, Stained or Bloody Underclothing  
- Pain or Itching in Genital Area  
- Bruises or Bleeding in External Genitalia, Vaginal or Anal Areas  
- Venereal Disease, Especially in Pre-teens  
- Pregnancy | - Unwilling to Change for Gym or Participate in PE  
- Withdrawal, Fantasy or Infantile Behavior  
- Bizarre, Sophisticated, or Unusual Sexual Behavior or Knowledge  
- Poor Peer Relationships  
- Delinquency or Run Away Reports of Sexual Abuse by Caretaker |
| **Emotional Maltreatment** | - Habit Disorders (sucking, biting, rocking, etc.)  
- Conduct Disorders (antisocial, destructive, etc.)  
- Neurotic Traits (sleep disorders, speech disorders, inhibition of play)  
- Psychoneurotic Reactions (hysteria, obsession, compulsion, phobias, hypochondria) | Behavior Extremes:  
- compliant, passive  
- aggressive, demanding  
Overly Adoptive Behavior:  
- inappropriately adult  
- inappropriately infant  
Developmental Lags (physical, mental, emotional)  
Attempted Suicide |

Compliments of: The Parenting Education Resource Center  
Prevent Child Abuse – New Jersey  
103 Church Street, Suite 210  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373)  
http://www.PreventChildAbuseNJ.org