

**MOUNT PLEASANT COTTAGE SCHOOL UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

The finding of any of the "Physical or Behavioral Indicators" given in this table does not inescapably imply the presence of child abuse or neglect. Rather, these indicators represent behavioral patterns or features which are often found in abused and neglected children. The presence of one or more of these indicators should simply alert the clinician to the possibility that abuse or neglect have occurred.

TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT	PHYSICAL INDICATORS	BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS
Physical Abuses	<p>Unexplained Bruises and Welts -on face, lips, mouth -on torso, back, buttocks, 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</p> <p>Unexplained Burns: -cigar, cigarette burns, especially on soles, palms, back or buttocks -immersion burns (sock-like, glove-like, doughnut shaped on buttocks or genitalia) -patterned like electric burner, iron, etc. -rope burns on arms, legs, neck or torso</p> <p>Unexplained Fractures; -to skull, nose, facial structure -in various stages of healing -multiple or spiral fractures</p> <p>Unexplained Lacerations or Abrasions: -to mouth, lips, gums, eyes -to external genitalia</p>	<p>Wary of Adult Contact</p> <p>Apprehensive When Other Children Cry</p> <p>Behavioral Extremes: -aggressiveness, or withdrawal</p> <p>Frightened of Parents/Guardians</p> <p>Afraid to go Home</p> <p>Reports Injury by Parents/Guardians</p>
Physical Neglect	<p>Consistent Hunger, Poor Hygiene, Inappropriate Dress</p> <p>Constant Lack of Supervision, Especially in Dangerous Activities or Long Periods</p> <p>Unattended Physical Problems or Medical Needs</p> <p>Abandonment</p>	<p>Begging, Stealing Food</p> <p>Extended Stays at School (early arrival and late departure)</p> <p>Constant Fatigue</p> <p>Listlessness or Falling Asleep in Class</p> <p>Alcohol or Drug Abuse</p> <p>Delinquency (e.g., thefts)</p> <p>States There is no Caretaker</p>

(Continued)

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PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (Cont'd.)**

TYPE OF CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT	PHYSICAL INDICATORS	BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS
Sexual Abuse	Difficulty in 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 Physical Education Class Withdrawal, Fantasy or Infantile Behavior Bizarre, Sophisticated, or Unusual Sexual Behavior Knowledge in Young Children Poor Peer Relationships Delinquent or Run Away Reports Sexual Assault by Caretaker
Emotional Maltreatment	Lags in Physical Development Failure to Thrive	Speech Disorders Habit Disorders (Anti-social, destructive, etc.) Conduct Disorders (Anti-social, destructive, etc.) Neurotic Traits (Sleep disorders, inhibition of play) Psychoneurotic Reactions (Hysteria, obsession, compulsion; phobias, hypochondria) Behavior Extremes: -compliant, passive -aggressive, demanding Overly Adaptive Behavior: -inappropriately adult -inappropriately infant Development Lags (Cognitive, emotional) Attempted Suicide

Taken with slight modifications from:

James Lauer, Ira Laurie, Marsha Salus, and Diane Broadhurst, "The Role of the Mental Health Professional in the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect," National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, DHEW Publications No. (OHDS) 79 – 30194, (1979).