



CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT: RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS



Unexplained injuries

Burns and bruises are visible signs of physical abuse. Explanations for these injuries may be unconvincing.



Changes in eating

Fear and stress can alter an abused child's eating habits, resulting in gaining or losing weight.



Changes in behavior

Abused children often appear anxious, aggressive, depressed, withdrawn or scared. Some may return to earlier childhood behaviors including sucking the thumb, wetting the bed, or express irrational fear of strangers or the dark.



Changes in sleeping

Abused children may appear tired, have difficulty sleeping or experience frequent nightmares.



Fear of going home

Abused children may display anxiety about leaving school or going somewhere with the abuser.



Lack of personal care or hygiene

Abused and neglected children may appear dirty, uncared for and lack suitable clothing for the weather.



Changes in school performance

Abused children have difficulty concentrating and have frequent absences that can often be attributed to parents trying to hide the child's injuries.



Risk-taking behaviors

Older youth may begin experimenting with drugs or alcohol.



Inappropriate behaviors

Sexually abused children may display sexual behavior or explicit language.

GET INVOLVED: PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Everyone has a role to play in ensuring children are safe and protected. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, call **1-800-4-A-CHILD** or get involved in the following ways:

**BE A POSITIVE
SUPPORT FOR A CHILD**



**BECOME A
FOSTER PARENT**



**DONATE FUNDS
OR YOUR TIME**



“As communities, it is our responsibility to protect children from abuse, neglect, mistreatment and harm. All children deserve to thrive in an environment that promotes healthy brain development; cultivates emotional, cognitive and behavioral abilities; and builds resilience.”

-James Roberson, Vice President of Program Services, KVC Hospitals

KVC works to prevent and heal child abuse and neglect in multiple states and provides services for children and families in crisis including in-home family therapy, foster family support, adoption and more. **Learn more and get involved at www.kvc.org.**

