

PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

PHYSICAL INDICATORS	BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS
<p>Unexplained bruises and welts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On face, lips, mouth, torso, back buttocks or thighs ▪ In various stages of healing ▪ Clustered, forming regular patterns ▪ Reflecting shape of object used to inflict injury (electric cord, belt buckle, hand) ▪ On several different surfaces ▪ Regularly appear after absence, weekend or vacation <p>Unexplained burns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cigar, cigarette burns, especially on soles, palms, back or buttocks ▪ Immersion burns (e.g. glove-like), on buttocks or genitalia ▪ Patterns (e.g. electric burners) ▪ Rope burns on arms, legs, neck or torso <p>Unexplained fractures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To skull, nose, facial structure ▪ In various stages of healing ▪ Multiple or spiral fractures <p>Unexplained lacerations or abrasions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To mouth, lips, gums, eyes ▪ To external genitalia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wary of adult contacts ▪ Apprehensive when other children cry ▪ Behavioral extremes: aggression, compliance or withdrawal ▪ Frightened of caregiver ▪ Afraid to go home ▪ Reports injury by caregiver ▪ Exhibits low self-esteem ▪ Blames self for abuse

All indicators are not symptomatic of abuse or neglect. They must be examined in context with other family characteristics to determine that a child is in need of help.