What to Do If a Child is Abused

Has Been Abused

Child Abuse

Recognizing Signs of

Child Abuse

What Is Child Abuse?

Family

Seek counseling for the child and for all members of the family. Report the abuse to the police. The local child protection agency should be contacted as well. In the case of a hospital visit, the child protection service should be notified.

Poor hygiene

Low self-esteem

Aggression toward adults or other children

Healing bruises or other marks

Swelling caused by other than accidental means

Unexplained burns, bites, bruises, lesions, abscesses, or infection in and around the vagina or anus

Bedwetting

Severe problems with incontinence, frequent nightmares, or enuresis

Overactive imagination

Fear of school, fear of doctors

Fear of doctors, lack of trust

Not wanting to be around or alone with certain people

Boredom

Restlessness, aggressiveness

Inappropriate sexual behavior

May say things that are not related to sexual abuse or indicated by the child

Impact of the abuse on the child and the family

Repercussions

Abuse

Recognize the emotional, social, medical, and educational needs of the child. Do not blame the child. Encourage your child to talk to you about what is going on. Build open and honest communication. Provide all the support you can.

Child abuse

Child neglect

Child abuse is defined as any injury inflicted on a child by adults or older children that might not be accidental. It is usually classified as physical, sexual, emotional, or neglectful abuse.

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