



Updated 2/2017

## **Abuse: Ch. 3 Symptoms of Abuse**

### Video Outline

#### **CENTRAL IDEA**

Children may struggle for many reasons; it may or may not be abuse. A Child Advocate's job is to figure out what is keeping them from thriving. It is your job to observe and report potential signs of abuse to the Child Advocate. Symptoms of Physical, Emotional, and Sexual Abuse are usually drastic and quick changes occurring in a relatively short period of time. Symptoms of Neglect usually appear gradually.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

Identify the specific signs for each type of abuse.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

*(None)*

#### **SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE**

- Children may struggle for many reasons; it may or may not be abuse. A Child Advocate's job is to figure out what is keeping them from thriving.
- Physical, Emotional, and Sexual abuse symptoms usually are drastic and quick changes occurring in a relatively short period of time.
- Neglect abuse symptoms usually appear gradually.

#### **PHYSICAL ABUSE**

- Scarring or Injuries
- Extra Clothing
- Violent Language, Play, or Dreams
- Tired
- Quick Temper and Mood Swings
- Unable to handle strong emotions
- Depression,
- Suicidal Language or Thoughts
- Runaway
- Avoid People or Situations
- Loss of Developmental, Motor, and Language Skills
- Children who are bullied may have "lost" or "forgotten" property

## SEXUAL ABUSE

- Hyper (Over-) -Sexual
  - Masturbate Frequently
  - Many Sexual Partners
  - Sexualized and Violent Language
- Asexual or No Interest in Relationships, Sex, or Sexuality
  - Extra Clothing
  - Wash Frequently
  - Stop Washing
  - Weight Gain
- Loss of Weight, Appetite, Menstruation
- Nightmares, Tiredness
- Avoid People and Situations
- Sexual Knowledge Inappropriate for Age
- Difficulty Sitting or Walking
- Health Issues:
  - Sexually Transmitted Infections
  - Urinary Tract Infections
  - Cold Sores
  - Pain around the Genitals or Anus
  - Pregnancy

## EMOTIONAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

- Loss of Developmental, Motor, and Language Skills
- Depression
- Self-deprecating (“Mean”) Language
- Suicidal Thoughts or Language
- Lowered Eyes/Head
- Few Friends
- Fear of a Negative Report to Caregiver

## NEGLECT

- Caregiver not in Stories or Explanations
- Caregiver does not Attend Events
- Difficult Time Contacting Caregiver
- Missing Items (lunch, books, clothes, homework, etc.)
- Dirty or Worn Clothes
- Dirty or Messy Appearance
- Weight Loss
- Frequent Sickness
- Unattended Injuries/Medical Conditions
- Tired
- Unwilling to Accept Help