



## rape and abuse crisis center

advocacy, counseling, education.

### Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse

**The following are behaviors commonly displayed by children who have experienced sexual abuse. Although the presence of one or more of these indicators is not proof that a child is being sexually abused, it should be enough to cause a concerned individual to closely observe the child, to try to uncover the source of the behaviors. If, at any time, a professional suspects a child is being sexually abused, she/he should report such suspicions to the appropriate social service agency.**

- Depression
- Withdrawal-i.e.: child with few friends
- Isolation from peers
- Drug/alcohol abuse
- Chronic runaway
- Increase in physical complaints-i.e.: headaches, chronic illnesses
- Hysterical paralysis
- Attention-getting behavior-inappropriately acting out
- Suicide attempts
- Physical abuse-self-inflicted (mutilation) or inflicted by parents
- Truancy-i.e.: skipping school/classes
- Drop in academic performance
- Poor self-image-reflected in choice of clothing, overall appearance, cleanliness
- Limited participation in organized social activities
- Overly seductive behavior
- Prostitution
- Promiscuous sexual behavior
- Heavy childcare responsibilities
- Heavy household responsibilities-i.e.: regular responsibility for laundry, meal preparation, etc.
- Overly restricted social activities

#### **Behavioral signs among young children:**

- Excessive masturbation
- Enuresis (bedwetting)
- Encopresis (fecal soiling)
- Altered sleep patterns
- Severe nightmares
- Fears or phobias
- Regression in developmental milestones
- Learning problems
- Explicit knowledge of sexual acts
- Excessive curiosity about sex
- Precocious sex play
- Seductiveness
- Overly compulsive behavior
- Clinging/whining to a particular parent (non-abusive parent)
- Open sexual behavior after age 5-7

(701)293-7273 / [www.raccfm.com](http://www.raccfm.com)

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