Signs That May Indicate Abuse and/or Neglect

Some signs of abuse are easier to spot than others. One or more of the following signs may indicate abuse or neglect:

- Bruising
- Torn clothing
- Bleeding from vaginal or anal orifices
- Repeated illnesses or injuries, especially ones with no clear cause
- Aggression
- Excessive compliance, depression or withdrawal
- Nightmares
- Self-destructive behaviour
- Sudden change in feelings about a specific person or place
- Lack of attachment to caregivers

Sometimes neglect is harder to identify. Indicators of neglect may include:

- Missing key articles of clothing
- Over or under-dressed for weather conditions
- Height and weight significantly below age level
- Persistent hunger
- Trouble concentrating
- Low self-esteem
- Body odour
- Consistently dirty and/or severely unkempt appearance
- Sleepiness/always tired