

# Signs and symptoms of child abuse

Remember, you must be aware of potential signs and symptoms of child abuse.



## Physical

Unexplained injury

Injury does not match the explanation

Flinching

Unwilling to cooperate with personal care

Bruising in shape of object or finger marks

Inappropriate clothing, e.g. sweater in summer



## Sexual

Self-harm

Inappropriate sexual behaviour

Sadness

Depression

Loss of self-esteem

Unusual vaginal, anal or oral discharge

Unforeseen pregnancy

Sexually transmitted infections



## Neglect

Unusual weight loss

Dehydration

Malnutrition

Untreated physical problems

Unsanitary or unsafe living conditions

Unsuitable clothing for the weather

Abandonment of child in a public place



## Female Genital Mutilation

Difficulty walking, sitting or standing

Spending longer than usual in the bathroom

Unusual behaviour after an absence from school/college

Reluctance to undergo particular medical examinations



## Emotional

All types of abuse result in emotional abuse

Poor self-esteem

Mental health problems

Substance misuse



## Discriminatory

Unequal treatment

Verbal abuse

Slurs

Harassment

Deliberate exclusion

Physical abuse or assault

Hate crimes

For more safeguarding resources visit [www.virtual-college.co.uk](http://www.virtual-college.co.uk)