

Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass

183 Walton Avenue Lexington, KY 40508 859-225-KIDS (5437)

Signs and Symptoms of Child Sexual Abuse

Physical	Behavioral	Emotional
Pain or itching in genital area	 Unexplained changes in behavior 	 Frequent fantasizing
Difficulty walking, sittingPreoccupationFrequent urinary tract infection	WithdrawalInability to concentratePoor peer relationships	Frequent cryingExtreme sensitivityIrritability
 Vaginal discharge Painful urination 	 Sudden drop in school performance Secretiveness 	Mood swingsGuilt
 Bruises or bleeding in genital, oral, or anal areas 	Sleep disturbances	• Depression
 Bed-wetting or soiling 	 Over compliance 	• Fear
 Abnormal dilation of vaginal or rectal opening 	 Delinquency, running away 	Hyperactivity
 Presence of semen 	 Child taking on role of wife 	 Numbness
Sexually transmitted disease	 Lack of trust 	• Shame, worry
• Pregnancy	Excessive masturbation	 Fear of a particular person
Foreign bodies in genitals	 Regressive behavior 	 Suicidal talk
	 Fear of baths 	 Self-injury
	 False "maturity" 	 Eating disorders
	 Change in eating habits 	 Dissociation
	 Aggressive acting out 	
	 Sophisticated or unusual sexual behavior or knowledge 	
	 Promiscuity 	
	 Sexually abuses other kids 	

Note. A child who displays one or more of the signs and symptoms of sexual abuse listed is not necessarily one who has been victimized and concerns should be directed to a mental health professional. Reprinted from Connection Workbook (p. 50), by J. S. Levenson and J. W. Morin, 2001, Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. Copyright 2001 by Sage Publications, Inc.