

POSSIBLE INDICATORS OF  
**CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

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**BEHAVIORAL:**

- Fear of adults, a specific person, a particular room or place
- Outbursts of anger, aggressive and abusive behavior
- Sexual acting-out with younger children or "seductive" behavior with adults
- Compulsive lying
- Compulsive seeking of affection or attention
- Withdrawal, fantasizing, depression
- Low self-esteem, feeling like a victim, suicidal and self destructive behavior (drug & alcohol abuse, prostitution, self mutilation, running away)
- Regression in developmental milestones such as bed-wetting, thumb-sucking, excessive crying and lapses in potty training
- Evidence of a "special relationship with an older person, particularly if it involves bribes or threats
- Overachieving, being overly responsible, taking on the mother role, and being overly compliant or complacent
- Dramatic changes in behavior... appetite, social interaction, nightmares, and bedwetting
- Social isolation... child resists playing or socializing with friends and peers
- Frequent tardiness or absence from school, especially if the note is always written by the same person
- Excessive masturbation
- Explicit knowledge of sexual language or acts inappropriate to age



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