

# **BREAKING THE SILENCE**

...to stop the Cycle of pain

## **Child Abuse in America Lecture Supplement: Potential "Red Flag" Indicators of Child Abuse or Neglect**

### Potential Indicators of Physical Abuse/Neglect

<http://www.med.umich.edu/abusehurts/childflags.htm>

#### **Younger Children**

- ⇒ Caregiver Delays in Seeking Medical Care for Child's Injuries
- ⇒ Caregiver or Child Blame Injuries on Child's Behavior
- ⇒ Inconsistent or Changing Story
- ⇒ No Story for Injuries
- ⇒ Child Hesitant to Talk About Injuries
- ⇒ Child Appears to be Afraid of Family Member
- ⇒ Discrepancy Between Physical Condition and Verbal Report

#### **Older Children**

- ⇒ Self-Inflicted Violence
- ⇒ Eating Disorders
- ⇒ Drug/Alcohol Use & Abuse
- ⇒ Exaggerated Startle Reflexes
- ⇒ Acting Out Behaviors
- ⇒ Social Isolationism

#### **All Children**

- ⇒ Drastic or Sudden Unexplained Change in Performance
- ⇒ Drastic or Sudden Unexplained Change in Behavior

### Potential Indicators of Child Sexual Abuse

<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/providerparent/Health-Safety/>

#### **Physical Symptoms:**

- ⇒ Difficulty Sitting, Walking, or Doing Other Activities that Show the Child is Sore in the Genital Area
- ⇒ Repeated Medical Problems with Genitals, Urinary System, or Digestive System

#### **Younger Child Behaviors:**

- ⇒ Preoccupied with Sex Play (Frequent Masturbation, Touching other Children's Genitals, Exposing Genitals Frequently)
- ⇒ Displays More Sexual Acting Out than Other Children
- ⇒ Unusual Sexual Behavior (Constantly Touching Genitals, Rubbing Genitals on Inanimate

Objects, Mimicking Sex with Toys)

- ⇒ Withdraws and Seems to Lack Social Skills

#### **Older Child Behaviors:**

- ⇒ Sexual Promiscuity
- ⇒ Self-Inflicted Violence
- ⇒ Eating Disorders
- ⇒ Drug/Alcohol Use & Abuse
- ⇒ Withdraws and Seems to Lack Social Skills

#### **Behaviors Of Parents:**

- ⇒ Extremely Overprotective
- ⇒ Overly Interested in the Child's Social and Sexual Life
- ⇒ Acts Jealous of the Child
- ⇒ Refers to the Child in Sexual Ways