

CHILD PROTECTION

Ensure the safety of everyone
Call the ambulance on Triple Zero (000)

CHILD ABUSE INDICATORS

	Physical	Sexual	Emotional	Neglect
Physical indicators The carer may see....	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruising or burns in a shape or pattern (eg belt buckle, irons, fingers, cigarettes) Injuries in various stages of healing Repeated injuries over time Bruising to head and face Bite marks, welts, burns Bald patches on head Fractures or injuries in children who are not yet mobile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injury, infection or inflammation to the genital area Discomfort going to the toilet Presence of foreign bodies in the genitals Sexually transmitted infections Bruising or injury to breast area, buttocks or thighs Anxiety related illnesses Frequent urinary tract infections Start to wet or soil the bed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delay in development Failure to thrive Failure to gain weight Bed-wetting Diarrhoea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unattended medical and dental needs Chronic untreated head lice Chronic nappy rash Consistent lack of supervision Inappropriate dress for weather Not enough food supplied Poor nutritional value in food supplied Delay in development
Behavioural indicators The child may say...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlikely or differing stories of how an injury occurred "Someone hurt me" (perhaps a parent or caregiver) "I don't want to go home" "I don't want to go with that person" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details about the abuse That they have night mares or can't sleep That they don't like a particular person "I want to run away from home" "I'm not hungry" - frequently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I am no good" That someone says they are "bad" Mimics what was said to them, to others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I was scared last night on my own" "I have no friends" "No-one wants to play with me" Not much at all
The child may be...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequently absent Wary of adults and watchful Overly compliant Shy, withdrawn, vacant Passive and uncommunicative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excessively dependent Lacks trust in others Promiscuous Reluctant to participate activities Fearful or startled when touched 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overly compliant Extremely demanding Always wanting attention Fearful of consequences - leads to lying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constantly demanding attention Begging for or stealing food Alienated from peers (poor social skills) Constantly tired, hungry and listless
The child may display...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flinching if touched Unusual nervousness Hyperactivity Aggressive, disruptive/destructive behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor personal hygiene Scratching or handling of genital region Advanced sexual knowledge Playing games that echo the abuse Aggressive behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor peer relationships Signs of depression Inappropriate behaviour for age Aggressive behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begging for or stealing food Behaviour that takes on an adult role Irregular or non-attendance