

SILENT CRIES: RECOGNIZING THE WARNING SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE

Physical Abuse:

- Unexplained bruises, burns, or welts in the shape of objects
- Wearing long sleeves even in hot weather (to hide injuries)
- Making excuses or showing fear to avoid going home
- Injuries that don't match the given explanation

Emotional Abuse:

- Delayed physical or emotional development
- Excessive withdrawal, fearfulness, anxiety
- Aggression or overly compliant behavior
- Low self-esteem or self-worth

Sexual Abuse:

- Avoidance of certain people or places without explanation
- Knowledge of sex inappropriate for the child's age
- Lack of eye contact, not wanting to participate
- Trouble walking or sitting

Neglect:

- Poor hygiene or being consistently dirty
- Unattended medical or dental issues
- Frequently hungry or loss of weight
- Seeking additional attention

Bullying/other general signs:

- ANY change in behavior (may differ from expected)
- Sensitivity to sudden noises and/or movements
- Sitting alone, avoiding friends, fearing others
- Staying behind allowing peers to leave first
- Sudden inability to focus or concentrate
- Red or puffy eyes indicative of crying
- Frequent absences from school

If you suspect child abuse, it's important to report it to the appropriate authorities or child protection services without delay!

