



SOME COMMON BEHAVIORS IN CHILDREN EXPERIENCING ABUSE

References

Makes mature references or knows more about sex than "normal" for age

Fears

Begins having nightmares or is suddenly afraid of a person or place

Habits

Changes eating, sleeping or studying habits; may begin wetting the bed

Attention

Seeks excessive attention; in need of continual validation

Depression

Becomes sad or depressed; expresses suicidal thoughts

Self-Esteem

Exhibits low self-esteem; begins to inflict self-harm (cutting, burning, etc)

Violence

Physically lashes out; may sexually abuse other children

Test Waters

Talks about a "friend" being abused or offers partial disclosure to test response

Drug Use

Begins using drugs or alcohol