



# 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; begins 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; sexually abuses other children

## Test Waters

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

## Drug Use

Begins using drugs or alcohol