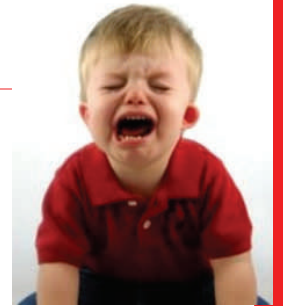


Indiana Association for Infant & Toddler Mental Health

Infants and toddlers under three years are at highest risk of abuse, accounting for 76% of abuse and neglect related fatalities in the United States between 2001 and 2007. Because these problems are widespread in this population, those who work with young children are likely to have seen a child who has been abused or neglected. The IAITMH encourages everyone who works with young children to increase protection for those who are most vulnerable by *supporting high risk families, learning the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and reporting any suspected cases of abuse*. While no one symptom is proof of abuse, the following behaviors and interactions are concerning and may indicate possible abuse or neglect in young children.



Signs of possible neglect or abuse:

- * Unexplained injuries
- * Loss of skills or delays in development
- * Sudden onset of specific fears, such as fear of a particular place/person, including their caretaker.
- * Exaggerated startle responses or frequent nightmares.
- * Smell or look dirty
- * Beg, steal or hoard food
- * Inappropriate, torn, stained or bloody clothing
- * Overt sexual behavior.
- * Lack of parental response to a distressed child
- * Overly harsh or critical parent-child interactions

Report Abuse!

- * If you are concerned about a family, but unsure what to do, consult a supervisor or trusted colleague.
- * If you suspect abuse or neglect call the Department of Child Services: 1-800-800-5556
- * If you suspect a child is in immediate danger, call the police or 911.

Support Families with Voluntary Prevention Resources:

- * Healthy Families (<http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org/>)
- * Community Partners for Child Safety (www.childrensbureau.org)

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