



## **WARNING SIGNS WHICH ARE CAUSE FOR CONCERN**

Any one sign doesn't necessarily mean your child has been abused, but the presence of several suggests you begin asking questions and stay alert.

### **Younger children**

- New words for private parts
- Resists on removing clothes when appropriate (bathing, bedtime, toileting, diapering)
- Imitates adult-like sexual behaviors with friends, siblings, toys or stuffed animals
- Asks older children to behave sexually – i.e. play sexual games

### **Older children**

- Nightmares, sleep difficulties with no explanation
- Distracted – distant
- Sudden change in eating habits – refuses to swallow
- Sudden mood swings – rage, fear, withdrawal
- Writes or draws of sexual or terrifying images
- Refuses to talk about a SECRET shared with an adult or older child
- Talks about a new older friend
- Suddenly has money, toys or other gifts without reason
- Thinks of their self or body as disgusting, dirty, bad
- Displays adult-like sexual behaviors i.e. language & knowledge
- Masturbating excessively
- Tells you they don't want to be alone with a particular adult
- Seems to be crying for help – wants to bait a discussion about a sexual behavior

### **Adolescents**

- Alcohol & Drug abuse
- Sexual Promiscuity
- Eating disorders - i.e. anorexia, bulimia and compulsive eating
- Displays self-injurious behaviors (Cutting, sticking themselves with pins)
- Suicidal thoughts