



# SEXUAL ABUSE INDICATORS



CHILDREN MIGHT SAY...	THE CHILD MAY DEVELOP...	THE CHILD COULD...	THE CARER MAY SEE...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I do not like that person</li> <li>• I do not want to go with that person</li> <li>• I do not want to be baby sat by.....</li> <li>• I will not get undressed in front of.....</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty in walking</li> <li>• Nightmares</li> <li>• Medical conditions such as a sexually transmitted disease</li> <li>• Sexual knowledge beyond their years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop eating disorders</li> <li>• Start to wet the bed</li> <li>• Develop scratching the genital region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dislike of a person</li> <li>• Inappropriate sexual knowledge at an early age</li> <li>• A change of behaviour</li> </ul>

## PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOURS TO PREVENT AND DETECT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

### Ten tactics to help protect children

1. Talk. Keep communication open with children. Let children know they can talk and ask questions about sex, death and the universe.
2. Trust your own feelings and trust your children's feelings.
3. Teach children to trust their own feelings especially about people. Tell them it's OK not to feel comfortable with someone.
4. Do not rule out sexual assault as an explanation for "different" behaviour. You can always ask children directly.
5. Check out babysitters and other adults who have contact with or access to your children.
6. Make it clear to children that there should never be secrets about touching.
7. Tell children that it is never OK for adults/ bigger people to touch private parts or to ask you to touch their private parts.
8. Children need to know that some adults will try and trick/bribe them in order to touch their private parts.
9. Children need to keep on telling until someone hears them.
10. Remember that most children are sexually assaulted by people they, and their parents, know, trust and often love.

