



Abuser Behavior: COMMON WARNING SIGNS

In over 90% of child sexual abuse cases, the abuser is someone the child knows and trusts. You can help keep a child safe from sexual abuse by monitoring the relationships a child has with the adults and older minors in their life.

While the following behaviors may not necessarily mean a person is sexually abusive, they are important indicators that steps need to be taken to ensure the child in question is not at risk.

AN ADULT OR OLDER YOUTH WHO:

- ✓ insists on physical contact with a child (e.g., hugging, rubbing, kissing, tickling) even when the child appears uncomfortable or says no;
- ✓ seeks emotional or physical comfort from a child instead of turning to another adult or someone their own age;
- ✓ frequently arranges playtimes or outings for children or youth and doesn't invite or encourage adults to participate;
- ✓ actively pursues baby sitting opportunities at no charge and/or gives certain children or youth gifts or money for no clear reason;
- ✓ shows inappropriate interest in children's bodies or genitals (e.g. talks about a child's developing body, takes photos of nude or semi-nude children or youth); and
- ✓ exposes children or youth to sexual talk and/or shows them sexually explicit photos or videos.

*If you are concerned that a child has been sexually abused or is at risk of being abused, call **The Sex Abuse Treatment Center's 24/7 hotline at 524-7273.***

