



Kalamazoo CAN  
(269) 552-4430  
[www.KalamazooCAN.com](http://www.KalamazooCAN.com)

## Key Indicators of Physical Abuse

Physical child abuse (e.g., beating) can appear in many ways. Here are some of the most common physical (bodily) and behavioral indicators.

### Key Physical (Bodily) Indicators of Physical Abuse:

- Unexplained welts and bruises:
  - on face, lips, mouth*
  - on back, torso, buttocks, thighs*
  - in various stages of healing*
  - clustered, forming regular patterns*
  - reflecting shape of article used to inflict (e.g., electric cord, belt buckle)*
  - on surface areas regularly appear*
  - after an absence, weekend or vacation*
  
- Unexplained burns:
  - cigar, cigarette burns, especially on soles, palms or back*
  - immersion burns (e.g., shock-like, glove-like)*
  - patterned like electric burner, iron, etc.*
  - rope burns on arms, legs, torso*
  
- Unexplained fractures:
  - to skull, nose, facial structure*
  - multiple or spiral fractures*
  
- Unexplained lacerations or abrasions:
  - to mouth, lips, gums, eyes*
  - to external genitalia*

(Please go to the next page to read about key behavior indicators of physical abuse.)

**Key Behavioral Indicators of Physical Abuse:**

- Wary of adult contact
- Apprehensive when other children cry
- Aggressiveness or withdrawal
- Frightened of parents
- Afraid to go home
- Reports injury by parents
- Behavioral extremes
- Aggressiveness or withdrawal

To learn more about the warning signs of child abuse and neglect, visit the “Resources” section of our website at [www.KalamazooCAN.com](http://www.KalamazooCAN.com). Or call our office at (269) 552-4430.

**Important:** If you suspect a case of child abuse or neglect, please call Child Protective Services immediately at **(269) 337-5046**. Don't wait. Make this confidential call now.