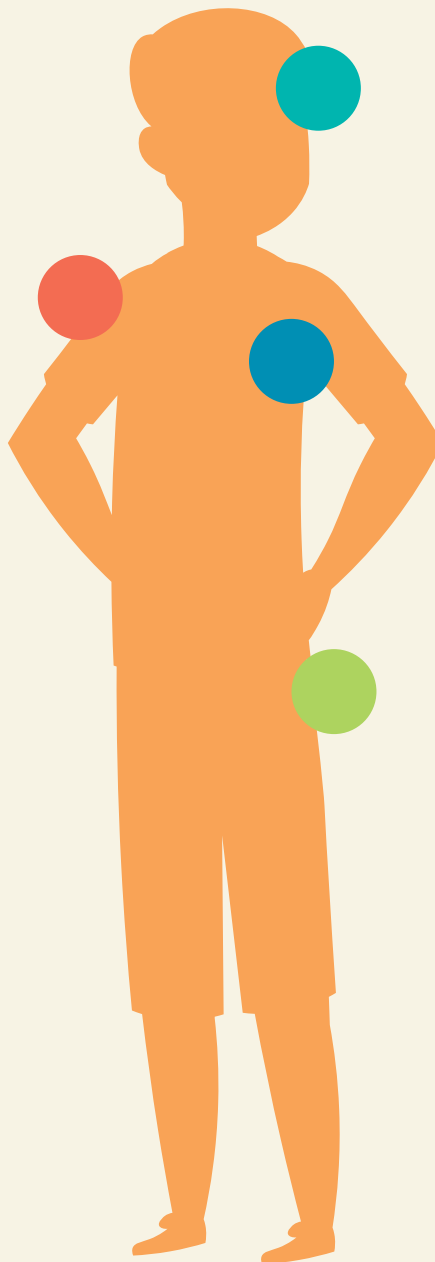


Potential signs and symptoms of abuse

Effects can be seen in child or teens and can have long term consequences

Behavioural

- Increased anger and aggression related behaviour
- Clinging
- Self-harm and suicide attempts
- Withdrawing
- Eating problems
- Avoiding being home
- Running away
- Sexual behaviour that is inappropriate for the child's age and developmental status
- Knowledge about sex and sexuality that is unexpected for the child's developmental level
- Negative peer involvement
- Irregular school /work attendance
- Conduct problems
- Delays in development at school or have an unexplained decrease in grades and overall school performance
- Constantly reporting feeling unwell with no apparent medical explanation



Psychological

- Anxiety
- Depression and irritability
- Suicidal thoughts and feelings of hopelessness
- Physical pain that cannot be explained medically
- Disconnecting from their surroundings, "zoning out," or going somewhere else

Emotional

- Shame
- Fear and anger
- Confusion
- Self-blame and low self esteem
- Guilt

Physical

- Unexplained bruises, cuts, or scrapes
- Vaginal or anal injuries
- Urinary tract infection
- Yeast infections
- Sexually transmitted infection
- Pregnancy