

Checklist:
Characteristics of Abused or Neglected Children

- Seem old for their age
- Lack ability to play
- Temper tantrums beyond that expected for age and stage of development
- Negative self-esteem—child behaves in a way that tells us that he does not feel competent or in control or that he is not worthy of the attention of others
- Withdrawal—can, but does not always indicate abuse
- Chronic aggression or overt hostility against peers, animals, adults, themselves
- Passive watchfulness—an excessive amount
- Compulsivity or efforts to control some small aspect of their lives
- Fearful of failure
- Difficulty listening to or carrying out instructions
- Difficulty organizing thoughts, conceptualizing, and verbalizing
- Regression to an earlier stage of development—bedwetting, thumbsucking, baby talk
- Poor social skills
- Extreme shyness
- Steal or hoard food
- Little or no empathy for others