

# Signs of abuse: what to do

If you suspect a child is being (or has been) physically, emotionally or sexually abused



## Look

- Toddlers & older children: Unusual, frequent bruises
- Infants: Any bruises
- Exhibits severe sleep or toileting issues
- Is consistently dirty or has severe body odor
- Has frequent broken bones
- Shows extremes in behavior (i.e., withdrawn, compliant, demanding, aggressive, etc.)
- Makes strong efforts to avoid a specific person, without an obvious reason



## Ask

Begin with open-ended questions, such as what happened, can you tell me more about that? Always listen and believe the child.



## Tell

Err on the side of filing a report if you have a gut feeling something isn't right. Call Texas Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-800-252-5400