

Parental Behaviors of Adults Who Abuse Children



- Shows little concern for the child
- Appears unable to recognize physical and emotional distress in the child, doesn't respond to the child's emotional or physical needs
- Doesn't tend to or take care of child's injury
- Parent who says that the injury is self inflicted or blames a sibling
- Doesn't notify the teacher /adult caretaker of child having an injury
- Denies that any problems exist at home, or blames the child for problems
- Consistently blames, belittles or screams at the child, describes the child with negative terms, such as worthless or evil
- Wishes the child was never born
- Expects the child to provide him/her with attention and to take care and meet their needs, sees child as getting in the way of their own needs being met
- Uses harsh or physical discipline or asks the teacher to do so
- Demands an inappropriate level of obedience and uses harsh punishment or corporal punishment if obedience doesn't occur
- Uses physical abuse as a form of discipline, uses it as a consequence
- Cruel consequences such as locking child in closet or making them stand in corner for long periods of time, denying them food
- Offers conflicting or unconvincing explanations for a child's injury or not explanation at all
- Limits the child's contact with others, isolates child, makes up excuses why child can't visit others or play with others, tells child not to tell
- Adults who show episodes or loss of self control in front of others
- Excessive use of alcohol and drugs that impairs their judgment with child; parental substance dependency often leads to child abuse

