

PREVENTION

PHYSICAL SIGNS

- Injuries that cannot be explained (e.g., broken bones, burns, cuts, bruising, missing teeth)
- Pain from injuries or abrasions
- Bleeding in the genital or rectal areas
- Blood on sheets or underwear
- Yeast or bladder infections
- STDs or pregnancy

INCREASED ANGER

- Younger children – more temper tantrums or crying
- All ages – More destructive of things: yelling, hitting, or throwing things

INCREASED OBEDIENCE

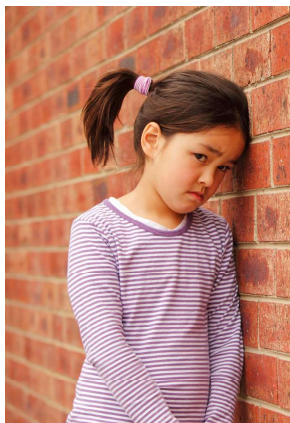
- More eager to please

MORE FEARS

- Fear of going to school, going home, being in the dark, riding the bus, or certain people or places
- Stop wanting to be with someone in their life

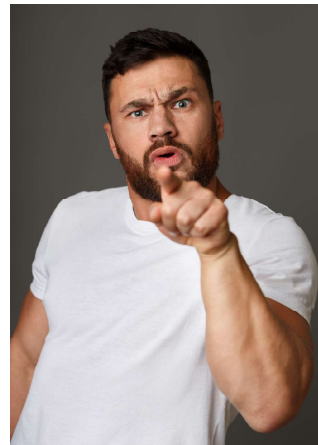
CHANGES IN SCHOOL OR DAYCARE BEHAVIOR

- Difficulty concentrating or less cooperative
- Younger kids - Stop playing and exploring
- Older kids - Skip school



CHANGES IN MOOD

- More scared, anxious, upset, angry, depressed, aggressive
- More withdrawn or outgoing
- More destructive, angry, or easily upset (especially in nonverbal individuals)



CHANGES IN FUNCTIONING

- Eat less or eat more
- Suddenly lose or gain weight
- Sleep more, sleep less, have nightmares, trouble going to sleep at night, scared to go to sleep
- Do not wash hair or body, wear the same clothes over and over
- Refuse to take baths or take too many baths
- More headaches or stomachaches
- Suck thumb, wet the bed, act more clingy to parent or caregiver

CHANGES IN COMMUNICATION

- Withdraw or communicate less, or communicate more
- Draw violent art to communicate distress

INCREASE IN SEXUAL BEHAVIORS

- Sexual acting out
- Draw sexual pictures that do not fit the developmental age
- Sexual aggression with others

INCREASED RISK TAKING

- Experiment with drugs, alcohol, sex, self-abusive behaviors, or run away

INCREASE IN INTENSITY OR FREQUENCY OF SELF-STIMULATING, SELF-INJURIOUS, OR REPETITIVE BEHAVIORS OR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW BEHAVIORS

www.paautism.org/BeSafe