



## ABUSER BEHAVIOR:

# Common Warning Signs

In over 90% of child sexual abuse cases, the abuser is someone the child knows and trusts. You can help keep a child safe from sexual abuse by monitoring the relationships a child has with the adults and older minors in their life.

The following are important warning signs. While these behaviors may not necessarily mean a person is sexually abusive, they are indicators that steps need to be taken to ensure the child in question is not at risk.

### An adult or older youth who:

- Insists on physical contact with a child (hugging, rubbing, kissing, tickling) even when the child appears uncomfortable or says no.
- Seeks emotional or physical comfort from a child instead of turning to another adult or someone their own age.
- Frequently arranges playtimes or outings for children or youth and doesn't invite or encourage adults to participate.
- Actively pursues babysitting opportunities at no charge and/or gives certain children gifts or money for no clear reason.
- Shows inappropriate interest in children's bodies or genitals (talks about a child's developing body, takes photos of nude or semi-nude children or youth).
- Exposes children or youth to sexual talk and/or shows them sexually explicit photos or videos.

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If you are concerned that a child has been sexually abused or is at risk of being abused, call The Sex Abuse Treatment Center's 24/7 hotline at (808) 524-7273.