

WARNING SIGNS OF BULLYING

Sudden disinterest in school. Child refuses to attend a certain class or activity

Sudden change in behavior or personality. Child is more sullen, evasive, moody, angry, anxious, or sad with no known cause; starts new behaviors such as bed-wetting, tics, nail-biting, stammering, stuttering

More anxious or fearful. Child may fear riding the school bus, suddenly takes a new and unusual route to school or to a class; tries to avoid the playground, cafeteria, or other location; may seek refuge in the library, school office, or stay next to a certain staff member

Unexplained damaged or missing school supplies. Child is missing electronic items, clothes, lunches, or money, and may report mysteriously “losing” possessions

Afraid to be left alone. Child seeks out a staff member at class dismissal, recess, in the lunch-room, or other times

Suddenly clingier. Child acts more insecure and noticeably less confident at certain times; wants an adult or peer present constantly

Starts to bully others. Child begins bullying younger or more vulnerable students or siblings, suddenly acts more aggressive or rebellious

Withdrawal from the social scene. Child stops talking to peers, withdraws from the social scene; uses derogatory or demeaning language when describing peers; remarks about being lonely or sad; complains that “nobody likes me”

Frequently ill or absent. Child is suddenly absent frequently from school or makes frequent visits to the school nurse’s office

Physical injuries. Child has bruises, scrapes, or other marks not consistent with explanation

Appears exhausted. Child is tired, falls asleep in class, yawns, or complains of an inability to sleep

Sudden drop in grades. Child has trouble focusing and completing schoolwork

Carries protection. Child starts to carry “protection,” such as a heavier backpack, a large flashlight, box cutters, forks, knives, or weapons

Talks about running away or committing suicide. Child may try to run away, describes life as “worthless,” writes or talks about giving up, or has a plan for death or destruction