### 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 lunchroom, 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