

RISK FACTORS AND BEHAVIORS

Signs That a Child and Family Need Help

by *Dr. Charles Fay*

1. Any disruptions in first-year-of-life bonding and attachment
2. Lack of guilt or genuine remorse when child hurts others
3. Fire setting and other destructive behavior
4. Cruelty to animals
5. Chronic arguing with parents, teachers, and other authority figures
6. Lack of positive friendships with same-age peers
7. Hyperactivity
8. Perceives self as a victim
9. Chronic refusal to do chores
10. Hoarding of uneaten food
11. Outbursts of severe anger when adults set and enforce limits
12. Encopresis and/or enuresis
13. Chronic lying in the face of the obvious
14. Suicidal or homicidal statements (Take all of these seriously!)
15. Abusive, violent parents
16. Parents who belong to gangs
17. Tobacco and other drug use, as well as association with peers who use these substances
18. Obsession with violent movies, music, video games, internet sites, etc.
19. Violent, gory, or suicidal content in drawings, school writing assignments, etc.

Children who display one or more of these characteristics...

- ♥ should be closely supervised
- ♥ need their parents to remove weapons and other dangerous items from the home
- ♥ are screaming out for love, limits, and professional help



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