1. What are the behavioral indicators of child sexual abuse?

   When behavioral indicators are present, the child usually shows a pattern of multiple symptoms. A high probability behavioral indicator is the child reporting to anyone he or she is being sexually abused.

2. What physical indicators are present when a child has been sexually abused (consider STDs, pregnancy, etc.)

   Venereal disease is a very high probability physical indicator of abuse for a child not yet involved in consensual sexual activity.

3. How do children react emotionally to being sexually abused?

   Varies, based on age and development.

4. What role does a sibling have regarding the sexual abuse of their brother or sister?

   A sibling who can corroborate information related to the child’s disclosure offers high credibility in supporting the disclosure. Interviewing the sibling(s) is generally the “second step” after interviewing the alleged child victim.

5. What do we know about children and the disclosure of sexual abuse regarding false allegations?

   Children rarely make false allegations. Disclosure is likely true unless there is substantial evidence to suggest otherwise.

6. What can prostitution by a teen indicate?

   It is a high probability indicator of sexual abuse, when accompanied by other indicators (such as a disclosure of abuse).

7. What is the definition of “Recantation”?

   A child changes their statement when re-interviewed about their initial disclosure.

8. What else can a worker do corroborate the story of a child who discloses sexual abuse but then recants?

   Continue the investigation, interviewing all sources for information.

9. What do you know about healthy sexual behaviors of young children?
Sexual exploration at this age is an information gathering process where children explore each other by looking and touching. Such behavior is considered healthy.

10. What is considered concerning “sexual play” between preschoolers?

   Sexual play that continues after the children have repeatedly been told to stop.

11. What are the indicators of healthy and natural sexual behaviors in a child under 12 years of age?

   Sexual play is with a child they know of similar age, etc.; the child’s interest in sex is balanced (not obsessive or a preoccupation); most children will engage in at least some sexual behaviors prior to age 13.

12. What is important to remember when working with children with sexual behavior problems?

   Most children with these behaviors have learned them from their home environment and most have likely not been sexually abused.

13. Be familiar with normal and abnormal sexual behaviors in a child aged 6 and under, including what behavior is concerning.

   Refer to #11 above, these generally also apply to children age 6. Also (per #10), gauge the child’s reaction to being told to stop their behavior.

14. What behavioral, emotional, and physical indicators are concerning for a teen?

   Radical change in school performance, social withdrawal, very seductive behavior, eating disorders, etc. It is important to remember any one of these is not necessarily an indicator of abuse; it becomes concerning when a teen exhibits a number of indicators.

15. What is Grooming?

   A pattern of behavior that targets a child and her/his family for building trust, and with the intent that access to the child will be welcomed and encouraged.

16. What is Conditioning?

   A pattern of behavior that prepares a child for the next level of sexual activity through gradually increasing from less intimate types of sexual contact to actual body and sexual contact.

17. What does the grooming process include for the perpetrator of child sexual abuse?

   Grooming generally includes selection of the child and family based on the vulnerability of both.
18. Why do perpetrators begin sexual abuse by conditioning and grooming?

   To establish trust and a level of comfort with the child.