

Signs a Student is Having Difficulties

Students may display some of the following signs when they are living with domestic violence. However, they may show these problems for many other reasons, and students displaying them may not have been exposed to domestic violence.

- physical complaints (headaches, stomachaches)
- tiredness
- constant worry and possible danger and/or the safety of loved ones
- sadness and/or withdrawal from others and activities
- low self-esteem and lack of confidence, especially for trying new things (including academic tasks)
- difficulty paying attention in class, concentrating on work and learning new information
- outbursts of anger directed toward teachers, peers or self
- bullying and/or aggression directed toward peers in and/or out of the classroom
- stereotyped beliefs about males as aggressors and females as victims

In addition to the behaviours listed above, older students may display:

- suicidal thought and action
- high risk behaviour including criminal activities, alcohol and substance abuse
- school truancy or leaving home
- dating violence