You cannot tell by looking at a person that they have been sexually abused. PROOF

Children/adolescents who have been sexually abused never feel angry. PHONY

ACTUALLY

It is very common to feel angry, afraid, guilty, sad, ashamed, etc.

Source: Deblinger and Stauffer (2004), as cited by The North Carolina Child Treatment Program, Advanced Training Institute (2011)

Source: Deblinger and Stauffer (2004), as cited by The North Carolina Child Treatment Program, Advanced Training Institute (2011)

Children and adolescents do not tell about sexual abuse because they enjoy keeping secrets. PHONY

ACTUALLY

Perpetrators may tell a child or adolescent to keep it a secret. They may also use tricks to keep the person from telling, such as blaming the child/adolescent or threatening that something bad could happen to them or their family. Sometimes kids keep it a secret because they feel ashamed, embarrassed or scared.

Source: Deblinger and Stauffer (2004), as cited by The North Carolina Child Treatment Program, Advanced Training Institute (2011)

Sometimes children/adolescents who have been sexually abused may feel sad, isolate themselves and want to be alone; while other times they may feel afraid to be alone.

PROOF

Source: Deblinger and Stauffer (2004), as cited by The North Carolina Child Treatment Program, Advanced Training Institute (2011)

There is only one reason sexual abuse occurs. PHONY

ACTUALLY,

There is no reason that justifies sexual abuse. It is very hard to know the reason why it happens to any child/adolescent. IT IS NEVER THE CHILD/ADOLESCENT VICTIM'S FAULT

Source: Deblinger and Stauffer (2004), as cited by The North Carolina Child Treatment Program, Advanced Training Institute (2011)

Sexual abuse can include both touching and nontouching behaviors. Touching behaviors may involve touching of the vagina, penis, breasts or buttocks, oral-genital contact, or sexual intercourse. Non-touching behaviors can include voyeurism (trying to look at a child's naked body), exhibitionism, or exposing the child to pornography. PROOF

Source: National Child Traumatic Stress Network (2009)

If you have been sexually abused, it is important to keep telling someone until they listen and get help.

PROOF

Source: Deblinger and Stauffer (2004), as cited by The North Carolina Child Treatment Program, Advanced Training Institute (2011)

Only children/adolescents who are female and of Irish descent are child sexual abuse victims.

PHONY

ACTUALLY

Sexual abuse happens to a lot of children and adolescents. It can happen to boys, girls, all ages, races, religions, socioeconomic backgrounds and in any geographic location.

Source: Deblinger and Stauffer (2004), as cited by The North Carolina Child Treatment Program, Advanced Training Institute (2011)

Offering a child/adolescent money, favors, or a gift, could be a way that a perpetrator is "grooming" a victim, to sexually abuse them.

PROOF

Source: National Child Traumatic Stress Network (2009)

Sexual perpetrators always use physical force. PHONY

ACTUALLY,

The perpetrator will often use a process called "grooming" to make a child/adolescent feel comfortable with them (buying gifts, arranging special activities, etc.) and with appropriate touches first. The perpetrator may also use play, deception, or threats to keep the abuse a secret.

Source: National Child Traumatic Stress Network (2009)