

Traumagenic Dynamics Theory¹

AREA OF IMPACT	CHILD'S VULNERABILITY	CHARACTERISTICS
Traumatic sexualization	Sexual development	Overly curious sexual behaviors Re-enacts abusive acts Aggressive sexual behaviors Sexual dysfunction Sexual identity confusion Sexual fears/addictions
Betrayal	Trust	Clinging behavior Damaged trust Vulnerability to future abuse Social withdrawal Depression Anxiety Physical ailments
Stigmatization	Disclosure of sexual abuse: Parents' reaction	Feels disgusting Low self-esteem Self-deprecation/self-injury Suicide Guilt Shame Feels odd Delinquency Substance abuse
Powerlessness	Tricked/not believed	Anxiety Sleeping disorders Fears Hyper-vigilance Learned helplessness Becoming an abuser Re-enacts "victim" role in other areas of life Tolerates continued abuse

¹ Adapted from Finkelhor, D. & A. Brown. (1985). The traumatic impact of Child Sexual Abuse: A conceptualization. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 55 (October).