

Table 3.1 Characteristics of Children Who Are Physically Abused and the Adults Who Abuse Them

Child Characteristics	Examples
Demographic factors	Young age
	Male sex
Special characteristics	Birth complications
	Physical, cognitive, and developmental disabilities
Adult Characteristics	Examples
Mental health and behavioral difficulties	Self-expressed anger and anger control problems
	Depression
	Low frustration tolerance
	Low self-esteem
	Rigidity
	Deficits in empathy
	Anxiety
	Perceived life stress and personal distress
	Substance abuse/dependence
	Reports of physical health problems and disabilities
Biological factors	Physiological overreactivity
	Neuropsychological deficits and intellectual impairment (e.g., problem solving, conceptual ability)
Parenting deficits	Disregard for children's needs/abilities
	Unrealistic expectations of children
	Deficits in child management skills
	View of parenting role as stressful
	Negative bias/perceptions regarding children
	Poor problem-solving ability with regard to child-rearing
	Intrusive/inconsistent parenting
	High rates of verbal and physical aggression toward children
	Living with a single parent, unmarried parents, in a large family

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