

Justin

Justin is six years old and loves Thomas the Tank Engine. He knows the names of each train and frequently will playfully call one of his teachers or friends one of the train names or ask them to pretend that they are Gordon, James, Clarabelle, or one of the other characters. He is an affectionate child who readily will hold your hand and loves to sing songs. He has a wonderful belly laugh and most of the other teachers and kids enjoy being around him. He has red hair and is covered with freckles.

Justin has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy and intellectual disabilities. He walks without assistance but sometimes has trouble balancing, so frequently stumbles. He has been attending his local elementary school since he was in the preschool program at age three. He is now enrolled in a typical kindergarten class with the assistance of a part time special education inclusion teacher. Because of his cerebral palsy, he has some articulation problems and strangers have a hard time understanding what he is trying to say. For that reason, the speech therapist gave him a communication board which he has used at school for the past year. He hasn't really mastered using the communication board, but he tries to use it at school. His teacher sent home a duplicate communication board during the previous school year, but his mother does not use it with Justin. She said that she hasn't had time to sit down with him and learn to use it and also feels that her own methods of communicating with Justin are effective.

Until this fall, Justin has always enjoyed going to school. Within a month of school starting this year, he began to have tantrums every morning, not wanting to get dressed for school, not eating his breakfast, refusing to get on the bus, and NOT wanting to go to school in the mornings. His mother has tried to get Justin to tell her if there is a problem at school, but so far, she hasn't been able to find anything out from her interrogations. At school, the teachers have noticed that Justin is withdrawn, tired, and at the end of the day begins having tantrums again. They have tried to get him to tell them if there is a problem at home, but he has not identified anything, and usually he is too upset to give any information when he is in the middle of a tantrum, and will not discuss it at another time.

Justin's mother and his teacher had a conference about this behavior at school. While they both are feeling suspicious of each other, the subject of abuse did not come up, as they are reluctant to confront one another.

After this behavior had been going on for almost two months, both his mother and the school aide noticed during diaper changes that Justin's anus was swollen, red, and noticeably sore to the touch.