

Session 2
Case Study: Jill

Age: 6
Gender: Female

Jill is a new student in the first grade at Main Street Elementary. On Monday, Jill was sent to the school nurse after her teacher noticed bruises behind her ears and along her collarbone. The school nurse confirmed the observations by the teacher and contacted Jill's mother, who was very defensive and told her that Jill is clumsy and falls a lot when playing outside. When asked about the bruises directly, Jill was very withdrawn and wouldn't respond.

Two weeks later, Jill was scheduled for a checkup appointment with her medical doctor. As part of the appointment, Jill's doctor performed an oral exam and placed fluoride varnish on Jill's teeth because she showed signs of early tooth decay. Jill's mother was given a dental referral before leaving and was urged to schedule an appointment for a follow-up regarding the early tooth decay. Jill's doctor noticed that she was quiet and withdrawn but did not notice any bruising.

Jill's mother was able to get her into a dentist the following week for an exam. During the dental appointment, Jill's dentist noticed bruising on the back of her neck and observed that it looked like her lip was busted. Again, Jill's mother was defensive and explained that Jill is clumsy. Jill didn't say anything and kept to herself.

That evening, Jill's dentist contacted the physician who referred Jill and asked if there were any notes of bruising at her checkup the week before. The physician responded that he hadn't noticed any bruising, but that he had noticed she was very withdrawn. The physician looked at Jill's chart and made a note of her address so he could contact the elementary school in that county. After speaking with Jill's school nurse, the physician learned of Jill's bruising and decided to bring the dentist into the conversation.

After all three providers consulted over Jill's case, they decided to report suspicion of abuse to the Child-At-Risk Hotline.