

## When Should You Refer Students to the School Counselor?

Your use of counseling services with your students can increase the learning potential in the classroom. The teacher and parents are the key people in the recognition of counseling services for each child. Only through a combined team effort can the school's teaching goals be pursued.

### **The following should be considered emergency referrals and referred immediately:**

- Suspected evidence of child abuse, physical or mental.
- A child who cries or gets sick daily.
- A child who becomes unable to function in a normal way.
- Any behavior change in a child that is sudden or unusual.
- A child undergoing a traumatic family experience.
- Indications of mounting hostility between a child and a teacher or his or her peer group.

### **May refer:**

- Any child who requests to see a counselor.
- Students who need individual help beyond the time permitted in the classroom.
- Students with learning difficulties.
- Students having difficulty with special relationships.
- Students demonstrating observable changes in behavior that cannot be accounted for by the teacher.
- Children whose parents request counseling.
- Children who are antisocial.
- Children who are constantly late to school or with their work.
- Children with frequent complaints of hurts or aches.
- Children who are fearful or nervous.
- Children who seem to seek only negative attention.
- Children unable to follow rules.
- The "class clown."
- Children who are often absent from school.

### **Should refer:**

- Children who have experienced a death in the family or of a close friend.
- Children experiencing a divorce or separation in the family.
- Students moving to a new community.
- Children entering a new or special learning class.
- Children who exhibit excessive aggressive behavior.
- A group of children who are unable to resolve a conflict.
- Children living in a broken home.
- Children of migratory families.

