SMC SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

JANUARY 2022



NEGLECT

Every child deserves to be loved, cared for and protected. But 1 in 10 children have experienced neglect.

What is neglect?

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and the most common form of child abuse.

A child might be left hungry or dirty, or without proper clothing, shelter, supervision or health care. This can put children and young people in danger. It can also have long-term effects on their physical and mental wellbeing.

Types of neglect:

Neglect can be a lot of different things, which can make it hard to spot. Broadly speaking, there are 4 types of neglect:

Physical neglect:

A child's basic needs such as food, clothing or shelter, are not met or they aren't properly supervised or kept safe

Educational neglect:

A parent doesn't ensure their child is given an education

Types of neglect

Emotional neglect:

A child doesn't get the nurture and stimulation they need. This could be through ignoring, humiliating, intimidating or isolating them

Medical neglect:

A child isn't given proper health care. This includes dental care and refusing or ignoring medical recommendations

KEY MESSAGES



- Lanyards must be worn at all times.
- Please remember to sign in and out of school with the Inventry system screen.



Signs of neglect:

- Neglect can be difficult to spot.
- Having one of the signs doesn't necessarily mean a child is being neglected, but if you notice multiple signs that last for a while, they might show there is a serious problem.
- As a class teacher, tutor, TA or pastoral staff, we should look out for the following:

Poor appearance & hygiene

- · being smelly or dirty
- being hungry or not given money for food
- having unwashed clothes
- having the wrong clothing, such as no warm clothes in winter
- shoes- are there holes in them or split?

Health & development problems

- poor dental health
- poor language or social skills
- regular illness or infections
- repeated accidental injuries, often caused by lack of supervision
- skin issues, such as sores, rashes or bites
- medical conditions not effectively managed e.g. eczema
- head lice
- tiredness
- untreated injuries
- weight or growth issues.

Housing & family issues

- living in an unsuitable home environment, such as having no heating or hot water
- being left alone for a long time
- taking on the role of a carer for other family members.

Change in behaviour

- becoming clingy
- becoming aggressive
- being withdrawn, depressed or anxious
- changes in eating habits
- displaying obsessive behaviour
- finding it hard to concentrate or take part in activities
- missing school
- showing signs of self-harm
- using drugs or alcohol.

Effects of neglect:







Neglect changes childhood.

Children who've been neglected might experience short-term and long-term effects. These can include:

- problems with brain development
- taking risks, like running away from home, using drugs and alcohol or breaking the law
- getting into dangerous relationships
- difficulty with relationships later in life, including with their own children
- a higher chance of having mental health problems, including depression.

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