

YOU KNOW THE CHILDREN YOU WORK WITH THE BEST – ANYTHING UNUSUAL FOR THAT CHILD NEEDS TO BE NOTED. YOU HAVE TO ESTABLISH IF THERE IS A CONCERN ABOUT A CHILD, REPORT IT TO YOUR DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD WITHOUT DELAY AND MAKE SURE YOU RECORD THE CONCERN BY FOLLOWING YOUR POLICY.

Services For Education

This is any action that physically harms a child, externally or internally. It includes hitting, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning or suffocating. It also includes giving a child poisonous substances or inappropriate (legal or illegal) medicines, drugs or alcohol.

Possible signs and symptoms include bruising, red marks, burns, bites or unusual behaviours such as flinching, cowering or aggressive reactions to someone coming near.

Noticing any patterns of absences can be telling, as can unusual or unlikely explanations for physical marks and any reluctance by the child to changing for sports activities for example.



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This describes forcing or enticing a child to take part in any sexual activity, so exploitation is also included here. Sexual activity can include both contact (penetrative and non-penetrative) and non-contact activities.

Possible signs and symptoms are generally more likely to be emotional and behavioural concerns than physical concerns, such as using sexualised language inappropriate to the child's age or sexually explicit behaviours in public. Self-injurious behaviour may appear and a child may become withdrawn. Reluctance to change for PE for example might be due to physical bruising, especially hand marks on upper thighs.



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A key here is that this is behaviour that is persistent or severe. It is language and behaviour designed to make a child feel unwanted, worthless or unloved. It can be caused by threats or taunting, but also by a lack of love and affection or a child seeing others being hurt but being unable to prevent this as in Domestic Abuse situations. Emotional abuse can occur on its own, but is often present alongside other forms of abuse.

Possible signs and symptoms are often changes in behaviours. A child may have low self-worth, might seem over-keen to please or have inappropriate emotional responses to situations. Some children might display self-harm tendencies or appear low in mood.

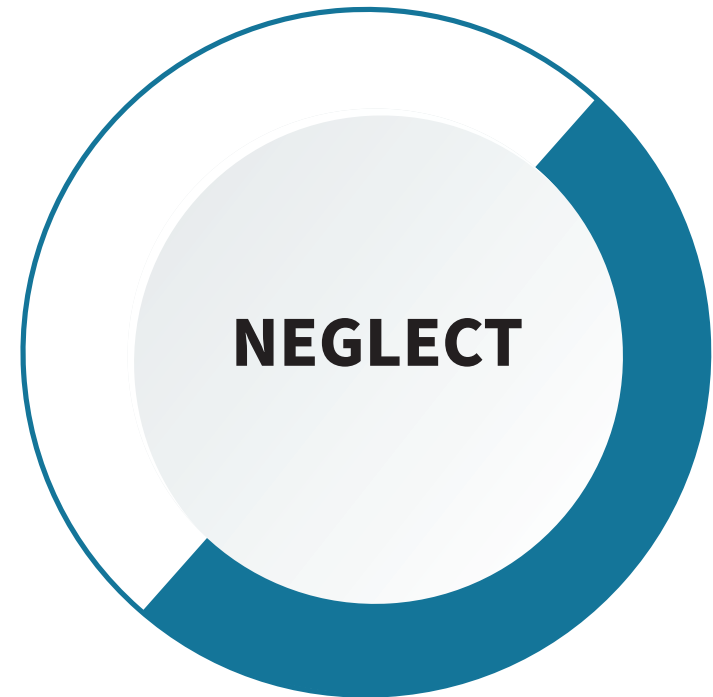


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This is a persistent failure to meet a child's physical or psychological needs. The child may lack adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical treatment, they may not be adequately protected from harm (including being left alone inappropriately for their stage of development). Emotional neglect also exists.

Possible signs and symptoms can include a child with poor hygiene, inappropriate clothing for the weather or activity, children who are often over-tired, children with untreated medical concerns or high absence levels. Some children may need high levels of emotional validation too.



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