

Neglect

What it is

- The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It can occur during pregnancy such as maternal substance abuse or when a child is born, not providing adequate food, clothing or shelter, not protecting a child from physical and emotional harm or ensuring appropriate medical care or treatment.

Signs

- Unexplained changes in behaviour or personality, becoming withdrawn, seeming anxious, becoming uncharacteristically aggressive, lacks social skills and has few friends, poor bond or relationship with parent, knowledge of adult issues, running away, always choosing to wear clothes which cover the body, scared of anyone going near them, medical conditions or needing to access the toilet a lot, always dirty, unhygienic, not having money for lunches, eating lunches from others

What to do

- Log your concerns on cpoms pass the slip to one of the DSL's
- Ensure you are factual and detailed in what you log do not add personal feelings just facts and what you can see
- Listen to the student if they talk to you, do not judge and do not question them, let them talk but explain you will need to pass it on

Useful Websites

- www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse
- www.learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect
- www.nhs.uk/spotting-signs-of-child-neglect
- www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/identifying

Questions

- What is meant by neglect
- How can you spot neglect
- What should you do if you suspect neglect
- What is the difference of neglect and abuse