

# Physical Abuse

## What it is

- A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwings, poisoning, burning or scolding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

## 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- Unexplained changes in behaviour or personality, becoming withdrawn, seeming anxious, becoming uncharacteristically aggressive, lacks social skills and has few friends, poor bond or relationship with parent, knowledge of adult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.

## 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
- If you see the injury ask the child how it happened and record this
- 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](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse)
- [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)
- [www.nhs.uk/spotting-signs-of-child-abuse](http://www.nhs.uk/spotting-signs-of-child-abuse)
- [www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/identifying](http://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/identifying)

## Questions

- What is meant by physical abuse
- How can you spot physical abuse
- What should you do if you suspect physical abuse
- Can you ask the child about the injury