

Questions to consider

- What might you observe in a Neglected child?
- What might a child who was being neglected tell you?
- What might you observe in parents who were neglecting their children?
- Can you think of one way you can listen to children more?
- What do you do well regarding neglect in your team/service? How can you improve?

What is neglect?

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological need, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development

Why does it matter?

Of all forms of maltreatment, neglect leads to some of the most profound negative and long-term effects on a child's behaviour, educational achievement, emotional wellbeing, and physical development.

Neglect Pathway

If neglect has been identified, consider the need for a Comprehensive Medical Assessment based on following criteria:

Concerns about:

- Developmental Delay
- Long term medical conditions
- Growth / weight
- Dental health
- skin conditions
- nutrition

If you have Child Protection concerns – follow agency guidance

Responding to Neglect

- GIRFEC National Practice Model
- Vulnerability/Resilience Matrix
- Chronology
- Robust assessment and analysis
- Multi-agency meeting and plan

Categories of Neglect

- Physical
- Emotional
- Educational
- Medical
- Dental

What to look out for

Children not brought for appointments. Withdrawn, anxious, clingy, depressed, aggressive, problems sleeping, eating disorders, bed wetting, soils clothes, takes risks, misses school, obsessive behaviour, nightmares, drugs, alcohol, self-harm, thoughts about suicide
(NSPCC 2018)

