

QUICK GUIDE TO CHILD NEGLECT

WHAT IS NEGLECT?



Neglect can be hard to spot and it can cover a few different areas. If you notice multiple signs of neglect that have been going on for a while - then there might be a serious problem and you need to take action.

- Use the hints & tips in the resources pack to document your concerns, **AND**
- Promptly discuss these concerns with your Designated Safeguarding Lead, your manager or your Lead/Team
- Call ICAT (initial Contact & Advice Team) to discuss your concerns - **0208 753 6600** there will be someone who you can talk to about your worries and who can take action. Click [Here](#):
- Call the NSPCC: 0800 300 5000- or visit the website: [CLICK HERE](#):

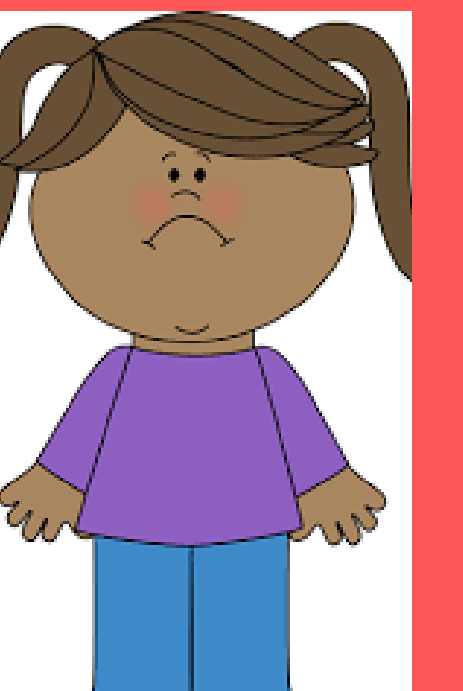
PHYSICAL NEGLECT

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



EMOTIONAL NEGLECT

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



EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT

A parent/carer doesn't ensure their child is given an education, or makes it difficult for their child to attend school.



MEDICAL NEGLECT

Medical neglect refers to when a child isn't given proper health care. This could include dental care, mental health support and refusing or ignoring medical recommendations.

Children not attending their health appointments. This is called 'Was not Brought'. Frequent appointment rescheduling, never attending and not following medical recommendations,

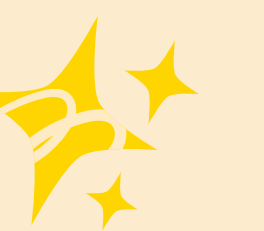


THINGS TO BE CURIOUS ABOUT



- Listen to what children are saying – does it match what you can see?
- Be alert at all times – look out for the indicators of neglect. It may be identified when dealing with an separate incident.
- Be mindful - what's the child's experience of day-to-day life like?
- Child neglect can be multifaceted and enduring, and as such may be difficult to pick up from one single incident. Do you notice patterns over time?
- Neglect can be best observed through the interactions between a parent and their child.
- What information do other professional's hold - are you able to liaise with them to build a wider picture?

KEY SIGNS:



- Poor appearance and hygiene
- Health and development problems
- Housing & family issues
- Change in behaviour
- Missing school
- Poor concentration
- Being frequently hungry / thirsty
- Having unwashed clothes
- Poor dental hygiene
- Frequent injuries
- Consistently tired
- Difficulty making friends or no friends at all
- Withdrawn



FOCUS ON 'QUALITY OF CARE

Do the parents or caregivers provide for the child's:

- physical care & health needs?
- their safety and supervision?
- give them love and care?
- offer stimulation and education?



Does adult behaviour get in the way of child focussed care?

QUICK GUIDE TO CHILD NEGLECT

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF NEGLECT?

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

- Problems with children's brain development
- Increases risk for behavioural disorders
- 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
- Correlates with risk of learning difficulties & poor school achievement
- A higher chance of having mental health problems, including depression



WHO IS AT RISK?

Any child can suffer neglect including adolescents, but some children and young people are more at risk than others.

Neglect can begin pre-birth during pregnancy



- Infants, or very young children, and those born prematurely are at the highest risk of death and or lasting mental and physical damage.
- Children with a disability and/or have complex health-needs
- Those that are in Care
- Those seeking asylum – with no parents to support them

HOW TO TALK ABOUT NEGLECT WITH PARENTS



A few tips:

- Always take time to plan the conversation before you speak to parents/carers
- Be open and honest, avoid using jargon
- Discuss the quality of care the children receive. There are resources to help you with this - [click here](#).
- When approaching a parent/carer – use 'active listening'
- Do not: argue, interrupt, give advice, pass judgement or jump to conclusions
- Be Professionally curious and ask clarifying questions
- Summarise what the parents have said
- Think about the strengths of the family and who else may be able to support them.

LSCP NEGLECT RESOURCES:



There are a number of helpful resources that can be accessed via the H&F LSCP Website, or by scanning the QR Code

- **Remember!** Use the hints & tips in the resources pack to document your concerns,
- Promptly raise your concerns with your manager or supervisor
- LSCP Website - [click here](#)
- Keep checking the website as we will be building a pool of resources to assist in identifying and responding to neglect.
- NSPCC [advice](#)

Scan here to
access resources



WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO PARENTS, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN H&F

- Children's Centres
- GP's & Health Visitors
- 2 year old offer
- Clinic Drop in's at GPs
- Family Support – early help offer
- Referral to ICAT/Front Door - call **020-8753-6600**
- Click [here](#) to find details of the Family Information Service



WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD TALKS ABOUT ABUSE/NEGLECT



- Find a quiet space to talk.
- Reassure the child or young person
- Ask open questions to help you understand their situation
- Let them know that you will help them
- Observe their behaviour -children cannot always put things into words - but their behaviour tells a story.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

What do they mean?



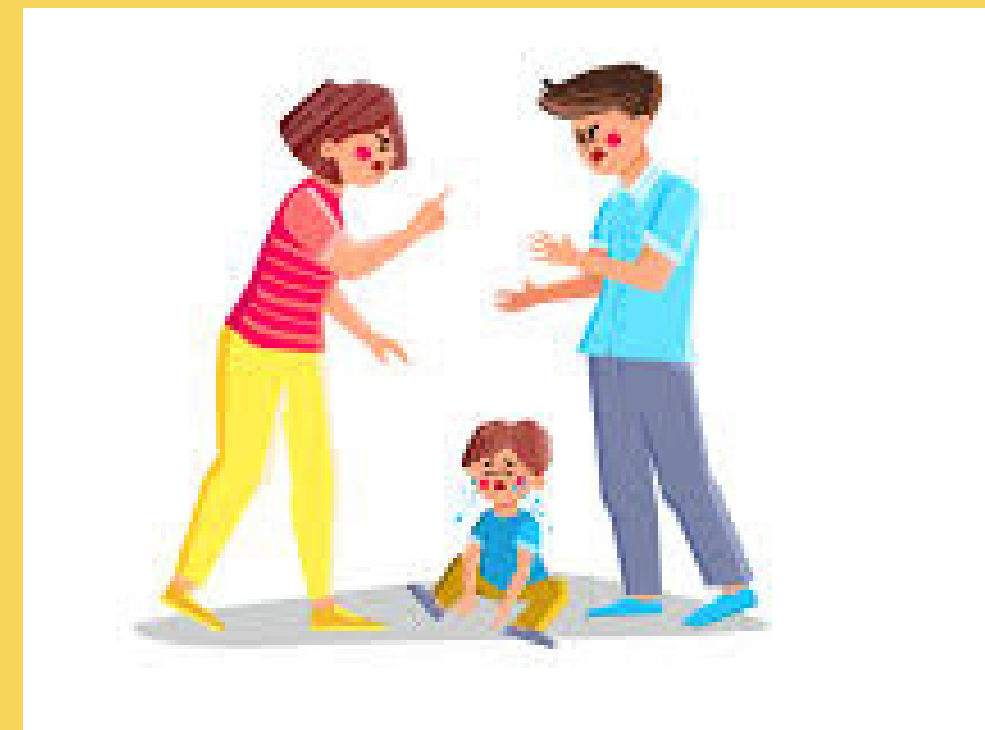
We can all make a difference in children and young peoples lives by understanding what ACEs are, and how we can best reduce the harm they cause.

WHAT ARE ACE'S?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) are stressful events in a child or adolescents life. They are very common, and most children may have at least one ACE. ACE's can happen to anyone, and may have lasting effects.

Types of ACE's :

- Abuse
- Poor Mental Health
- Neglect
- Divorce
- Domestic Abuse
- Parent going to prison
- Parental Substance Abuse



ACE's & Stress



The good news is that children can have good and bad experiences, and both can affect their health.

Science shows us that negative experiences can have long-term impacts on children's health and bodies. Stress from an ACE is different than everyday stress that all children experience.



ACE's & Health



Stress from ACE's can have lasting, negative effects on health, wellbeing in childhood and life opportunities, such as education and job potential, well into adulthood.

These experiences can increase the risks of injury, addiction, criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation, children's brain development, immune systems, and stress-response systems, as well as children's concentration, decision-making, and learning.

ACE's are also linked to serious health concerns such as Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Disease and suicide. This is why it is so important to guard against these serious illnesses.



Impact on children

While all children are at risk of ACEs, numerous studies have shown inequalities in things such as health, housing, living standards and education are linked to an increased likelihood of them having these experiences.

ACEs increase risk, but they don't have to lead to health problems...

- When adults consistently care for children and offer support, they feel safe and secure.
- They trust their caregivers will lovingly meet their needs. This feeling of security is good for their brains and bodies.
- Other positive lifestyle factors for children include eating healthy food, getting regular exercise, getting a good night's sleep
- practicing mindfulness, and getting mental health support when needed.
- Together, all of these important things can help turn the stress response down and can reduce the potential negative effects of ACEs.



The best way to mitigate against issues such as Toxic Stress for children and young people is to ensure that there is loving, caring supportive adult in their life. someone who they can turn to and seek help from and who will listen to them.

Having caring relationships and access to support services can reduce the harmful effects of negative experiences and hep a child's brain develop in a healthy way.

ACE's should not be seen as someone's destiny. There is much that can be done to offer hope and build resilience in children, young people and adults who have experienced adversity in early life.