

NEGLECT

What is Neglect?

- “Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caregiver, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm...or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm” (Keeping Children and Families Safe Act, 2003)
- Occurs along a continuum of severity
- May be an acute incident or chronic pattern
- May be physical, medical, environmental, emotional, or educational

Who are the Victims of Neglect?

- Approximately 7.2 out of every 1,000 children in the U.S. (2013)
- Of all child victims, 27.3% were under the age of 3, and 19.7 were between the ages of 3 and 5
- It is estimated that less than 1/3 of child maltreatment cases are reported to Child Protective Services (CPS)

Signs of Neglect

- Consider reporting a suspicion of neglect if you notice that a child:
 - Wears significantly dirty or ill-fitting clothing or is inadequately clothed for the weather
 - Always appears hungry; hoards, steals, or begs for food; or appears emaciated
 - Always appears tired or has little energy
 - Reports caring for younger siblings or states that no one is present at home to provide care
 - Presents with exceptionally poor hygiene
 - Presents with serious unattended medical or dental problems

Mandatory Reporters

- Physicians, nurses, physician’s assistants
- Behavioral health professionals
- Parents/Guardians, stepparents
- School Personnel
- Any other person responsible for the care or treatment of minors



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For more information, visit:

www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/neglect.pdf
www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/educator.pdf

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How Can Neglect Impact Development?

- **Health and Physical Development**
 - “Failure to thrive”
 - Poor physical health
 - Malnourishment
 - Impaired brain development
- **Intellectual and Cognitive Development**
 - Cognitive deficits
 - Developmental delays
 - Impaired social cognition
 - Low academic achievement
- **Speech and Language Development**
 - Expressive and receptive language delays and disorders
 - Speech delays and disorders
- **Emotional, Psychosocial, and Behavioral Development**
 - Difficulty with emotional regulation and understanding emotions of others
 - Difficulty forming and maintaining relationships
 - Limited ability to feel remorse or empathy
 - Lack of confidence and social skills

How Can We Support Neglected Children?

- Communicate with foster parents, as applicable
- Create a stable environment in the classroom
- Use visual schedules and simple verbal reminders to establish a consistent classroom routine
- Give simple verbal directions supported by gestures to aid comprehension
- Use centers or other small group activities to help the child interact with classmates cooperatively and form peer relationships
- Model social communication
- Establish a routine of emotional “check-ins” to promote understanding of emotion and emotional self-regulation
- Foster the development of coping and problem-solving skills as well as social cognition by engaging the child in conflict resolution processes



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