

Neglect: One Minute Guide

What is Neglect?

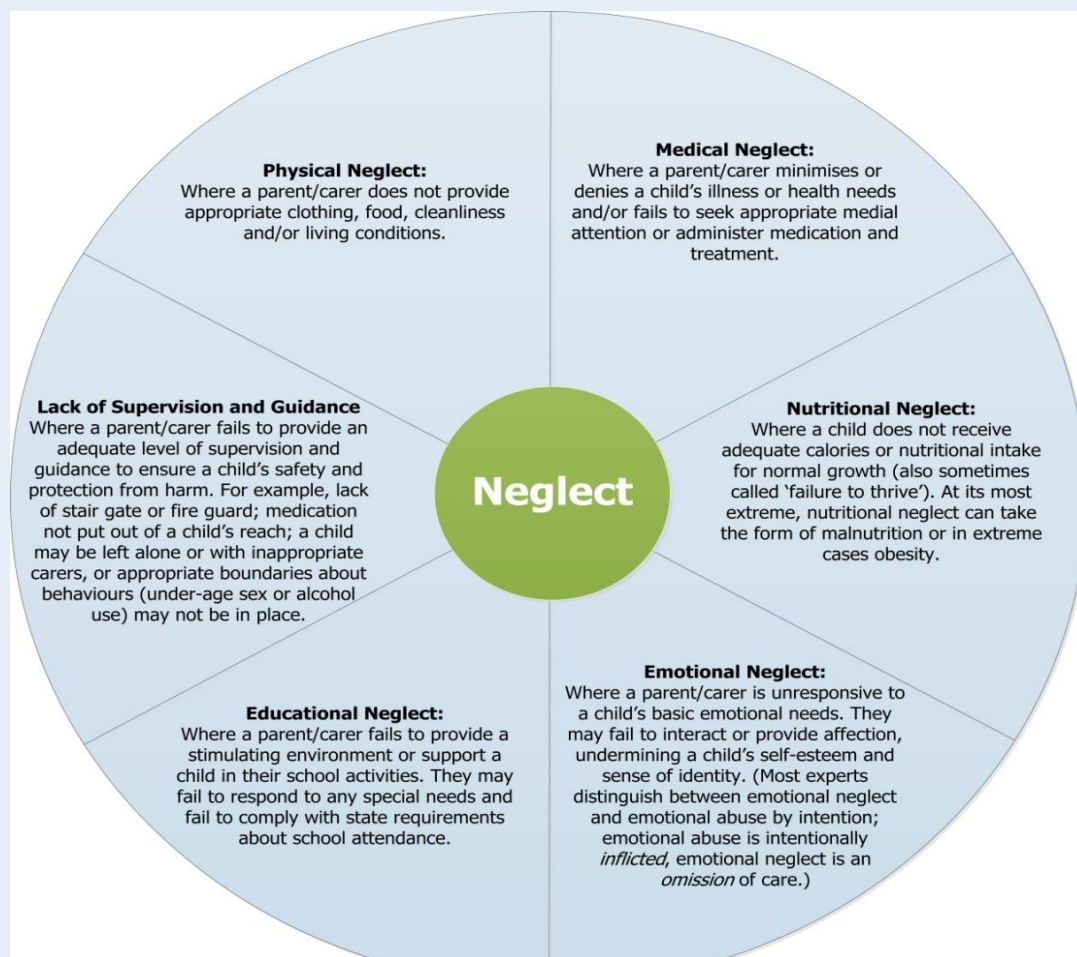
Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur in a wide range of circumstances including during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse or as a result of other parental harm or vulnerabilities, such as domestic abuse, mental health or learning disabilities...

...Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment (Working Together 2015).

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs. Neglect is a factor in 60% of serious case reviews and can be a medical emergency. Neglect can result in long-term physical, health, emotional and behavioural consequences and indeed can be fatal.

Identification of Neglect



What should practitioners do?

Practitioners have a duty to:

- Understand neglect and how it can impact on children at different stages of their development.
- Understand parental behaviours and the cumulative impact of neglect over time.
- Talk to children about their daily lived experience and be alert to a range of neglect, including physical, emotional, lack of appropriate supervision/boundaries.
- Intervene at the earliest opportunity to prevent the chronic impact of long term physical or emotional neglect on children.
- Work with parents, children and their network to prevent concerns escalating.
- Understand the likely impact of neglect and use evidence based predictive assessment to intervene early and effectively.
- Share evidenced based information about children who are suspected to be at risk of harm from neglect. This must be shared within and between agencies in order to ensure effective intervention that both builds on protective factors and reduces ongoing risk in families.

Key Contacts and Links

RCHT Safeguarding team (adult, children & maternity): 01872 254551

MARU: Telephone ☎ 0300 123 1116

E-mail ✉ MultiAgencyReferralUnit@cornwall.gcsx.gov.uk

Early Help: ☎ 01872 322277

Children's Social Care Duty Team: ☎ 0300 1234 101

Children's Social Care Out of hours: ☎ 01208 251300

Police (non-emergency): ☎ 101

If you feel a child is in immediate danger please contact **999**

For more information about neglect please go to: <http://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/>

As developed by the Devon Children and Families Partnership