

Neglect

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NSPCC

What is neglect?

▶ Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and the most common form of child abuse. A child might be left hungry or dirty, or without proper clothing, shelter, supervision or health care. This can put children and young people in danger. And it can also have long term effects on their physical and mental wellbeing.



Types of Neglect

- ▶ Neglect can be a lot of different things, which can make it hard to spot. But broadly speaking, there are 4 types of neglect.
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **Educational neglect**
A parent doesn't ensure their child is given an education.
- ▶ **Emotional neglect**
A child doesn't get the nurture and stimulation they need. This could be through ignoring, humiliating, intimidating or isolating them.
- ▶ **Medical neglect**
A child isn't given proper health care. This includes dental care and refusing or ignoring medical recommendations.

Signs of Neglect

- ▶ Neglect can be really difficult to spot. Having one of the signs doesn't necessarily mean a child is being neglected. But if you notice multiple signs that last for a while, they might show there's a serious problem.



Poor appearance & hygiene

- ▶ being smelly or dirty
- ▶ being hungry or not given money for food
- ▶ having unwashed clothes
- ▶ having the wrong clothing, such as no warm clothes in winter
- ▶ having frequent and untreated nappy rash in infants.



Health & development issues – such as ...

- ▶ Anaemia / Medical / dental issues
- ▶ Poor Language & social skills
- ▶ Injuries as a result of poor supervision
- ▶ Skin / Weight / growth issues
- ▶ Tiredness / Untreated injuries and illness.



Housing & Family Issues

- ▶ living in an poor home environment conditions, such as having no heating or hot water
- ▶ being left alone for a long time
- ▶ taking on the role of carer for other family members.



Change in Behaviour

- ▶ becoming clingy / aggressive / withdrawn, depressed or anxious
- ▶ changes in eating habits
- ▶ displaying obsessive behaviour
- ▶ finding it hard to concentrate or take part in activities
- ▶ Absenteeism
- ▶ showing signs of self-harm
- ▶ using drugs or alcohol (older children).



Dealing with disclosures

- ▶ listen carefully to what they're saying
- ▶ let them know they've done the right thing by telling you
- ▶ tell them it's not their fault
- ▶ say you'll take them seriously
- ▶ don't confront the alleged abuser
- ▶ explain what you'll do next
- ▶ report what the child has told you as soon as possible.



Effects of Neglect

- ▶ Neglect changes childhood. Children who've been neglected might experience short-term and long-term effects. These can include:
- ▶ problems with brain development
- ▶ 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
- ▶ a higher chance of having mental health problems, including depression.

Who is at risk?

Any child can suffer neglect – including those from well-off families.

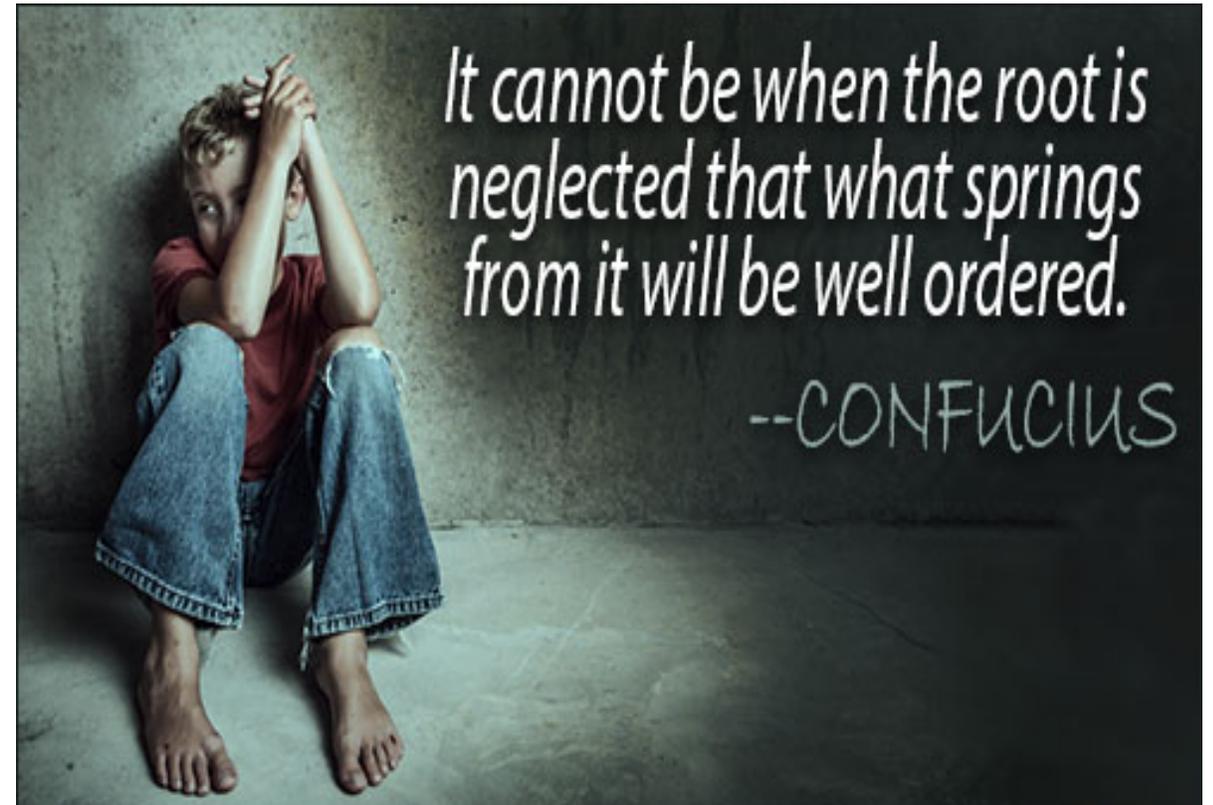
But some children and young people are more at risk than others. These include children who:

- ▶ are born prematurely
- ▶ have a disability
- ▶ have complex health needs
- ▶ are in care
- ▶ are seeking asylum.

Other problems and life circumstances can make it harder for parents and carers to meet their child's needs. When one or more of these issues occur, it can put a child at risk of neglect.

Report concerns without delay

- ▶ Use your settings reporting procedures in line with Local Authority guidance.



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