



7 Minute Neglect Briefing – Education

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

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.

What To Look For

Children not attending 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 Withdrawn, anxious, clingy, depressed, aggressive, problems sleeping, eating disorders, bed wetting, soils clothes, takes risks, misses school, obsessive behaviour,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.

Categories of Neglect: Physical, Emotional, Educational, Medical, Dental

Responding to Neglect

GIRFEC National Practice Model
Vulnerability/Resilience Matrix
Chronology
Robust assessment and analysis
Multi-agency meeting and plan
Remember the 5 GIRFEC Questions

- Maintain an open and inquisitive approach
- Don't be afraid to change your mind
- Consider current and past information, and underlying risk factors
- Look beyond the presenting issue
- Maintain a good chronology

If Child Protection concerns – follow child protection guidance

How To Recognise Neglect

Neglect can take many forms and it needs to be understood in the context of the different developmental needs of children and young people. Staff should make a distinction between indicators of neglect which relates to the child's presentation, behaviour etc., the parental actions or /and the interaction between parent and child, and risk factors, which relate to environmental factors (e.g poverty, unemployment, poor housing etc) more likely to increase the vulnerability of the child.

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 school?
How can you improve?