



If you **SEE** something... **SAY** something!

What is neglect?

Neglect is not meeting a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs. This can result in serious damage to their health and development. Neglect may involve a parent or carer not:

- Providing adequate food, clothing or shelter
- Supervising a child or keeping them safe from harm or danger (including leaving them with unsuitable carers)
- Making sure the child receives appropriate health and/or dental care
- Making sure the child receives a suitable education
- Meeting the child's basic emotional needs – this is known as emotional neglect
- Children who are not nurtured, stimulated, ignored, humiliated, intimidated or kept isolated.

Neglect is the most common type of child abuse. It often happens at the same time as other types of abuse.

Spotting the signs of neglect

Neglect can be difficult to identify. Isolated signs may not mean that a child is suffering neglect, but multiple and persistent signs over time could indicate a serious problem.

Some of these signs include:

- Children who appear hungry - they may not have lunch money or even try to steal food
- Children who appear dirty or smelly
- Children whose clothes are inadequate for the weather conditions
- Children who are left alone or unsupervised for long periods or at a young age
- Children who have untreated injuries, health or dental problems
- Children with poor language, communication or social skills for their stage of development
- Children who live in an unsuitable home environment.

Find out more about neglect

Help us keep our children safe in Cumbria



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