

# Neglect

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child/young person's basic needs and is [the most common form of child abuse](#). A child/young person may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care. A child/young person may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm. A child/young person may be clean and well dressed and live in a lovely well-kept home yet may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents. Neglect is dangerous and can cause serious, long-term damage - even death. Adapted from the NSPCC.

Physical Indicators	Behavioural Indicators	Parent/Carer Indicators	Home Environment Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child/young person, with repeatedly ill-fitting dirty clothes that aren't appropriate to conditions.</li> <li>• Child/young person with consistently poor personal hygiene.</li> <li>• Child/young person who is consistently presents as hungry.</li> <li>• Child/young person who has consistently untreated head lice/ rashes/asthma/tooth decay or other medical problems.</li> <li>• Child/young person who doesn't reach developmental milestones, such as learning to speak or walk, late, with no medical reason.</li> <li>• Child/young person with injuries that may indicate a lack of supervision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child/young person is begging or stealing food.</li> <li>• Child/young person who lacks interest appears down/ depressed/anxious.</li> <li>• Child/young person has consistent fatigue, listlessness or falling asleep.</li> <li>• Child/young person who has frequent school absences and punctuality issues.</li> <li>• Child/young person who is missing from education/ employment/training.</li> <li>• Child/young person who drink alcohol, misuse substances regularly from an early age.</li> <li>• Children/young people at risk of CSE or criminal exploitation.</li> <li>• Child/young person who has regular missing from home episodes.</li> <li>• Child/young person who talk about being left home alone, with inappropriate carers or with strangers.</li> <li>• Child/young person who are often angry, aggressive or self-harm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent appears to be indifferent to the child or antagonistic toward them.</li> <li>• Parent seems apathetic or depressed.</li> <li>• Parent behaves irrationally or in a bizarre manner.</li> <li>• Parent is abusing alcohol or other drugs.</li> <li>• Parents who are dismissive and non-responsive to professionals concerns.</li> <li>• Parents who collect their children from school when drunk, or under the influence of drugs.</li> <li>• Parents who fail to seek medical treatment when their children are ill or are injured.</li> <li>• Caregivers leave children alone for very long periods, with little or no protection/supervision from danger and adversity.</li> <li>• Parent is always late to collect the child.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child/young person living in an address that is unfit to be lived in due to dirt/clutter/rubbish.</li> <li>• Baby/toddler living in a home where it would be unsafe for them to crawl on the floor.</li> <li>• Child/young person with no bed or sleeping area in the home.</li> <li>• Child/young person with no bedding on bed.</li> <li>• Child/young person living in a house that is unsecure.</li> <li>• Child/young person living in a house that has uncared for animals present.</li> <li>• Child/young person that is subject to frequent unplanned moves of address.</li> </ul>