

Physical. Educational. Emotional. Medical.

Neglect.



The Neglect Screening Tool



HALTON NEGLECT SCREENING TOOL



Definition of 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 during the pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing or 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 caregivers); ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.' Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

Signs of Neglect

The tool lists possible signs of Neglect however the list is not exhaustive but may include;

- Appearing unkempt
- Lack of supervision
- Failure to attend health appointments
- Hungry at school

It is important to remember that Neglect occurs at every socioeconomic level, across ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions and at all levels of education.

Purpose of Tool

Is to equip frontline practitioners to:

- identify signs of neglect at an early stage,
- alert the need for further action
- Identify which agency/organisation/practitioner will progress further assessment/intervention as needed.

Child Protection / Safeguarding Statement

This screening tool does not replace your own or HBCs safeguarding policy and procedures in cases where you are concerned that a child/young person has been or is at risk of immediate harm.

If you are worried that a child is at immediate risk of significant harm consult with iCART on 0151 907 8305.

Using the tool

The tool is intended for front line practitioners within all partner agencies as a means to quickly identify areas of concern which may indicate a child/young person is being neglected. It is intended to complement existing tools E.G Pre-MAP, Child Exploitation or other screening/assessment tools and should be used accordingly. The tool is designed to be applicable to all ages of children and should help you identify Neglect and associated factors across all age ranges.

In order to complete this tool it is essential that you are able to evidence the reasons why you have highlighted concerns for any of the factors indicated. Only complete the parts of the tool you are certain about. If you are unsure about completing the assessment seek appropriate help within your organisation. It is essential that where you have highlighted areas of the assessment where you are **very concerned or sometimes concerned** that you provide further information to evidence these concerns.

Identifying details

Name Primary Carer(s)

Date of birth or EED Contact tel.no.

Address

Have you discussed your concerns with parent/carer? Yes No

If no please give reason

Does the child have any additional needs? Yes No

If yes please give details

Name of Practitioner/Agency Date

Neglect screening tool adapted from Child Abuse Review 2008

Category: Emotional and behaviour	Very Concerned	Sometimes	Not concerned
Relationships with peers/support networks are poor			
Child feels or is excluded by family			
Evidence of emotional withdrawal			
Attachment disorder, anxious, avoidant, social unresponsive			
High criticism, low warmth from parent/carer			
Non biological partner appears to resent the child			
Child seeks inappropriate physical comfort from a stranger/professional			
Under-stimulation evident			
Lack of online supervision, exposed to inappropriate films, websites, games or materials			
Shows reluctance to go home			
Self harm			
Episodes of missing or running away			
Child has Inappropriate carer responsibilities for other family members			
Category: Environmental Factors			
Human or animal excrement present around the home.			
Unsafe unhygienic home environment			
Little or no bedding/furniture			
Rural isolation/Poverty			
Animals pose a level of risk.			
Poor housing			
Unidentified adults or young people in the home			
Inadequate supervision			

Neglect screening tool adapted from Child Abuse Review 2008

Category: Health/physical care	Very Concerned	Sometimes	Not concerned
Frequent attendance at A&E and/or hospital admission			
Poor weight gain/nutrition			
Untreated or persistent head lice or other infestation			
Refusing help/services			
Poor personal hygiene of child			
Substance abuse of child/adult/household member			
Continuously failing appointments, not addressing health needs/treatments			
Inappropriately dressed for time of year clothes are not clean and do not fit.			
Not Registered with a G.P. not seeking support when the child is unwell or requires specific care (disability)			
Dental hygiene poor/not registered with a dentist			
Category: Parenting			
Poor inappropriate family support			
Inappropriate language/poor boundaries for own behaviour			
Fails to give child appropriate boundaries for behaviour			
Substance abuse			
Parental mental ill health is impacting on the child			
Parents/carers are not able or are not working with the plan, or professionals. Including involves a parent or carer giving the appearance of co-operating with agencies to avoid raising suspicions, to allay professional concerns and ultimately to diffuse professional intervention			
Aggressive or threatening behaviour towards professionals			
Leaving children with inappropriate carers/babysitters			
Little or no planning for the child, family life is disorganised/chaotic			
Unrealistic expectations of child			

Parent/carer relationships are abusive or violent (domestic abuse)			
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Neglect screening tool adapted from Child Abuse Review 2008

Category: Education	Very Concerned	Sometimes	Not concerned
Unexplained declining or non-attendance at nursery/school/college			
Child/young person is not achieving academic potential			
Inadequately prepared for nursery/school/college			
Lack of parental/carer engagement with nursery/school/college			
Withdrawn/lethargic. Frequently tired or unable to concentrate			
Unexplained extremes of behaviour			

Category: Feeding and eating

Little or no food in cupboards			
Stealing/scavenging food			
Presents at nursery/school/ college as hungry			
Frequently does not seem to have a balanced diet or enough to eat			
Excessive weight gain/weight loss			

Summary

What is working well?

What are you worried about?

What is the child/young person's view of their situation? (If the child is too young to express their views what are your observations of the child within the family setting?)

What are the parents'/carers' views of the situation for the child?

What needs to happen?

Who is going to do what?

Can you provide the additional service needed?

Yes No

Have you identified actions?

Yes No

If you answered 'no' to any of the previous questions, if you are unsure, or it is not clear what support is needed, would using the Neglect Assessment Tool help?

Yes No

If you answered 'Yes' to the previous question, who will do this assessment?

I will Another practitioner will