

Recognising Child Abuse

Sometimes children don't realize that what's happening is abuse. therefore it is incredibly important to know how to recognize it.

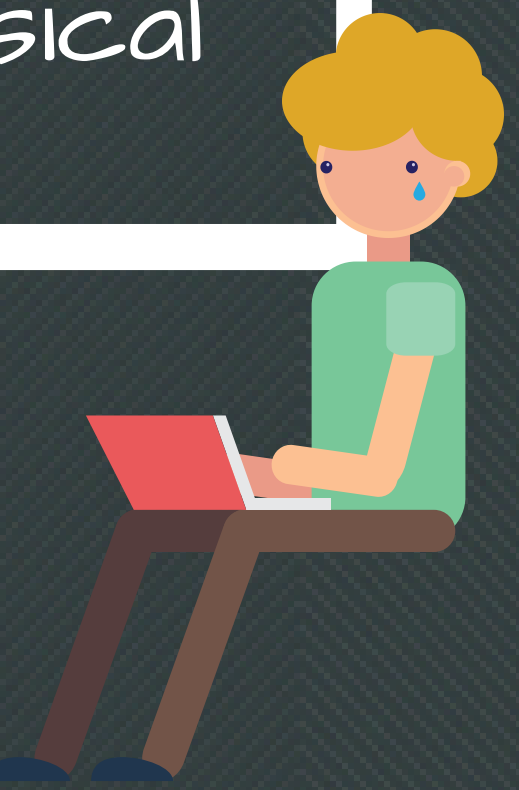
There are different types of child abuse and the signs that a child is being abused may depend on the type.

- poor presentation and hygiene - being smelly and hungry; having unwashed clothes...
- health and development problems - tiredness, medical and dental issues, skin issues, regular infections ...
- housing and family issues
- change of behaviour - becoming clingy, aggressive, depressed, obsessive...



Neglect

When adults consistently or repeatedly fail to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs

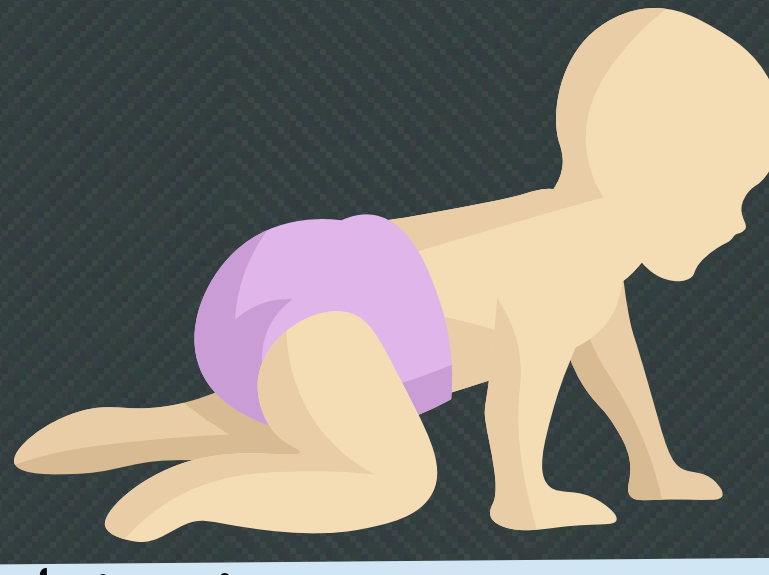


- bruises
- broken or fractured bones
- burns or scalds
- bite marks
- scarring
- the effects of poisoning: vomiting, drowsiness or seizures
- breathing problems from drowning, suffocation or poisoning



Physical abuse

When someone physically hurts or injures children by hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, biting, scalding, suffocating, drowning or otherwise causing harm.



signs of head injuries by toddlers and babies

- being extremely sleepy or unconscious
- breathing problems
- unusual behaviour, such as being irritable or not feeding properly

- seem unconfident
- struggle to control their emotions
- difficulty making/ maintaining relationships
- act in a way that's inappropriate for their age
- unexpected language usage
- act in a way or know about
- unexpected knowledge for their age
- seem isolated from their parents
- lack social skills
- have few or no friends

Emotional abuse

The persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child so as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.



pay attention to babies and toddlers as well:

- be overly-affectionate to strangers
- seem unconfident, wary or anxious
- not have a close relationship or bond with their parent
- be aggressive or cruel towards other children or animals

- avoiding being alone with or frightened of people or a person they know
- language or sexual behaviour you wouldn't expect them to know
- having nightmares or bed-wetting
- alcohol or drug misuse
- self-harm
- changes in eating habits
- developing an eating problem



Sexual abuse

When children and young people are abused by adults (both male and female) or other children who use them to meet their own sexual needs.

Contact abuse

Non-contact abuse



If a child talks to you about abuse or neglect it's important to:

- 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