

Children's Center

A place where healing begins

Indicators of Neglect

General Neglect - Physical Indicators

Child:

- Is consistently dirty and clothes are unwashed
- Is hungry, underweight
- Is tired and listless
- Has unattended physical/dental problems
- May have accidental injuries due to a lack of supervision
- Is inappropriately/inadequately dressed
- Has injuries that indicate an unsafe living condition (rat or roach bites, for instance)

General Neglect - Behavioral Indicators

Child:

- Is truant or tardy to school often, or arrives early and stays late
- Begs or steals food
- Attempts suicide
- Is extremely dependent or detached
- Appears to be exhausted
- States that there is frequent or continual absence of parent or guardian

Behaviors Seen In Infants & Toddlers:

- Withdrawn, apathetic
- Rocking
- Fearful
- Lethargy
- Failure to thrive
- Speech and language delays

Behaviors Seen In School-Age Children:

- Withdrawn, apathetic
- Fearful
- Learned helplessness
- Hoarding food
- Pseudo-independence
- Regressive behavior
- Sleeps in class or is unable to concentrate due to fatigue
- Seems unable to concentrate, preoccupied
- Parent-child role reversal exists

Children's Center

A place where healing begins

Behaviors Seen In Adolescents:

- Withdrawn, apathetic
- Aggressive
- Unkempt appearance
- Drug/alcohol abuse
- Eating disorders
- Sleeps in class or is unable to concentrate due to fatigue
- Parent-child role reversal exists
- Teen has been forced out of home

Possible Indicators of Neglectful Parents:

- Delays seeking medical/dental attention for child
- Is secretive and reluctant to give information about the child's condition
- Seldom touches, talks to or makes eye contact with child
- Becomes impatient about child's crying or need for attention
- Criticizes or gets angry with the child for being injured or having needs
- Shows little concern for child's problems, does not respond to inquiries
- Cannot be found
- Is using drugs and/or alcohol
- Has no family or support system to turn to in a crisis or has multiple pressures that diminish capacity to accomplish daily tasks
- Has resources but does not use them to provide adequate care for the child/youth
- Has exposed the child to domestic violence, drug dealing or use, or knowingly exposed them to unsafe people such as pedophiles

Possible Indicators of Neglect in Housing Conditions:

- Inadequate heat
- Unsafe use of space heaters
- Exposed wiring
- Broken/dangerous furniture or no furniture
- Missing or broken windows/doors
- Soiled, urine-soaked bedding
- Lack of edible food
- Medicines and cleaning supplies not stored away from reach of children
- No clean clothing
- Health dangers such as illegal drugs, feces, urine, rotting/molding food or clothing
- Lack of working plumbing
- Hazards such as broken glass, rotten flooring/railings, vermin