

What is abuse?

Answer

Abuse is the violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons. Any or all types of abuse may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent, negligence or ignorance. Abuse may be physical, emotional, sexual, discriminatory, neglect or failure to thrive.

What is emotional abuse?

Answer

Emotional abuse includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks, withholding affection, shouting, or depriving the person of the right to choice, information and privacy, behaviour that has a harmful effect on the child's emotional health and development.

What is neglect?

Answer

Neglect includes ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition, and heating, or undermining personal beliefs.

What is failure to thrive?

Answer

Failure to thrive is when a child fails to gain weight or grow and achieve their expected weight and height. This is caused by the inadequate intake of calories through food and drink. If there is no underlying physical or medical condition, this may be due to a negative relationship with the parent or carer.

Give two signs/symptoms of physical abuse.

Answer

These may include: injuries to the body – bruises, bald patches, cigarette burns, black eyes, torn frenulum (tongue attachment), fractures, fingernail scratches, scalds and burns, bite marks, wheals, withdrawal from physical contact, withdrawal from close relationships with adults and children, improbable excuses to explain injuries, deterioration in school work, fear of medical help, self-destructive behaviour.

Give two signs/symptoms of sexual abuse.

Answer

These may include: injuries such as bruises, bites and scratches to the genital and anal area, inappropriate sexual awareness, provocative sexual behaviour, fear of undressing for PE, depression and withdrawal, changes in behaviour, frequent urinary tract infections, internal cuts to vagina/anus, fear of a particular person, loss of appetite, poor concentration, change in sleeping habits, possible use of obscene language, bed wetting.

Give two voluntary organisations that work with children and families in stress?

Answer

Includes: NSPCC, Kidscape, NCH, Barnardo's, Mencap, Childline, Parentline and so on.

When making records, name two things that are important to include?

Answer

Includes: child's full name, date of birth, dates of events, full details of events, detailed and objective reports.

Why is it important to keep detailed records when there is a case of suspected abuse?

Answer

It is important to keep detailed records in cases of suspected abuse because these may be used to establish whether or not the abuse is a fact and may be referred to in criminal prosecutions and produced in a court.

Give two signs/symptoms of emotional abuse.

Answer

These may include: fear of new situations, developmental delay, overreaction to mistakes, inappropriate emotional responses, attention-seeking, poor social relationships, low self-esteem, lack of confidence, stealing, telling lies, poor concentration span, temper tantrums, wetting and soiling (non-age appropriate), compliance, fear of parents being contacted.

What is factitious illness?

Answer

Factitious illness was known as Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy. An adult, usually a primary carer, seeks medical opinion about physical or psychological symptoms in a child that is not actually sick. They try to deceive medical professionals that the child is ill. It is often linked with physical and emotional abuse and sometimes with poisoning to make the child ill.

What is sexual abuse?

Answer

Sexual abuse includes rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the child has not consented, or could not consent or was pressured into consenting. It also includes inappropriate touching and fondling, indecent exposure, observing inappropriate sexual behaviour, encouraging inappropriate sexual discussion, and sexual exploitation.

Give two signs/symptoms of factitious illness.

Answer

Signs and symptoms of factitious illness include: an illness that is unusual, prolonged and affects different parts of the body, symptoms are inappropriate and do not fit with the illness, parent is overly attached and 'clingy' towards the child, symptoms are observed when a parent/carer is in attendance during hospitalization, symptoms disappear when parent/carer is absent, child has multiple/excessive allergies.

What is the responsibility of the Early Years practitioner when abuse is suspected?

Answer

To report to line manager and not to promise to keep secrets if a child wishes to disclose information about abuse. You will also need to make a factual written record of what you have observed.

Which act of parliament was introduced to protect children?

Answer

The Children Act 1989 updated 2004 – in light of Victoria Climbié inquiry.

Name two principles of The Children Act.

Answer

For example: Parents and guardians retain parental responsibility and work in partnership with the local authority. No court order to be made unless it is better than making no order at all. The child's welfare is the court's paramount consideration. The concept of parental responsibility has replaced that of parental rights. Local authorities are charged with duties to identify children in need and to safeguard and promote their welfare.

Why can phone texting be considered abuse?

Answer

Offensive or upsetting phone texts is considered as bullying. Bullying is a form of emotional abuse.

What is Childline?

Answer

Childline is a confidential phone line support service for any child who feels that they need to discuss personal issues which may include the disclosure of abuse.

What is physical abuse?

Answer

Physical abuse includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, inappropriate sanctions, rough handling, pinching, punching, shaking, burning, forced feeding, or the use of force which results in pain, injury or change in the child's natural physical state.

When making records, name two things that are important to include?

Answer

Includes: child's full name, date of birth, dates of events, full details of events, detailed and objective reports.

Why is it important to keep detailed records when there is a case of suspected abuse?

Answer

It is important to keep detailed records in cases of suspected abuse because these may be used to establish whether or not the abuse is a fact and may be referred to in criminal prosecutions and produced in a court.

Is it currently illegal to smack your own child?

Answer

It is not currently illegal to smack your own child, however, excessive force must not be used and the smack should not be so hard that it leaves a mark. This is a matter of discussion and there are many groups that are trying to have the smacking of children banned.

How many headings are there under Every Child Matters?

Answer

There are five headings – be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, and achieve economic well-being.

What is the Criminal Records Bureau?

Answer

The Criminal Records Bureau is an executive agency of the Home Office. Its aim is to help organisations in the statutory and independent sectors by checking potential employees who may be unsuitable to work with vulnerable members of society.

Give two signs/symptoms of neglect.

Answer

These may include: poor language skills, low self-esteem, lack of confidence, unfamiliarity with books, stories and creative play, difficulty in expressing feelings, developmental delay, short concentration span, constant hunger, poor personal hygiene, constant tiredness, inadequate clothing for seasons, untreated medical conditions, thumb sucking and hair twisting, difficulty in forming relationships.

Give two signs/symptoms of failure to thrive.

Answer

Signs and symptoms of failure to thrive include: being underweight, small for age but will often start to gain weight and grow if removed from the family home for a period of time.

