

Case study - Baby

Background	You work in the baby room of a private day nursery. Your colleague puts a nail-biting solution on to a baby's thumb to stop her from sucking it. As the solution is to help people from biting their nails it has a bitter taste and each time the baby puts her thumb in her mouth she grimaces and starts to cry. Your colleague thinks that this is very funny and tells you to watch the faces that the baby pulls when she puts her thumb in her mouth.
What type(s) of abuse may have taken place?	
What are the factors that indicate this?	
What actions might be taken?	
By whom might these actions be taken?	
Comment	

Case study – Suggested response

Background	You work in the baby room of a private day nursery. Your colleague puts a nail-biting solution on to a baby's thumb to stop her from sucking it. As the solution is to help people from biting their nails it has a bitter taste and each time the baby puts her thumb in her mouth she grimaces and starts to cry. Your colleague thinks that this is very funny and tells you to watch the faces that the baby pulls when she puts her thumb in her mouth.
What type(s) of abuse may have taken place?	Physical.
What are the factors that indicate this?	The application of a solution to the baby's thumb to stop her sucking it.
What actions might be taken?	Report to nursery manager immediately as this is a form of assault. Reporting to police and social services.
By whom might these actions be taken?	Nursery manager.
Comment	This is a physical assault against the baby and a criminal prosecution may take place. The practitioner may be arrested and questioned about the assault and if prosecuted may be placed on the section 99 register (Children Act 1989) which would stop them from working with children. This would also then be recorded and would be picked up during criminal records bureau (CRB) checks.