

Case study -Rafa

Background	During the last term, eight year old Rafa has had an average attendance at school of 40%. When you discuss it with his mum she tells you that since she has had the new baby she needs more help at home. She keeps Rafa at home some days to help with the baby and also it gives her some company during the day.
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	<p>During the last term, eight year old Rafa has had an average attendance at school of 40%. When you discuss it with his mum she tells you that since she has had the new baby she needs more help at home. She keeps Rafa at home some days to help with the baby and also it gives her some company during the day.</p>
What type(s) of abuse may have taken place?	<p>Neglect. Emotional abuse.</p>
What are the factors that indicate this?	<p>Rafa being kept at home when he should be at school. Not being able to develop social relationships with his peers.</p>
What actions might be taken?	<p>Referral to education welfare service - education welfare officer (sometimes known as education social workers.) Health visitor for support with new baby. GP.</p>
By whom might these actions be taken?	<p>Headteacher.</p>

Comment	<p>It is difficult caring for a new baby and there may be underlying reasons for the mother's behaviour. Referral to the health visitor or GP may help her to discuss these issues. Post-natal depression may only be one of these.</p> <p>The school and an education welfare officer (EWO) will support the mother to bring about an improvement in attendance. If there is no improvement the County Council may consider taking legal action.</p> <p>Failure to ensure Rafa's regular attendance at school is a criminal offence. This carries a maximum fine of £1000.00 per parent per child. This means that Rafa's father can also be fined £1000.00. For more serious cases, a fine of up to £2,500.00 per parent per child and/or up to 3 months imprisonment.</p> <p>As an alternative to prosecution, parents may pay a fixed penalty fine of £50.00</p> <p>Rafa is missing out on mixing with his peers and developing his social skills as well as missing out on his education.</p>
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