

Case Study - Jerome

Background	<p>Jerome is three years old and attends pre-school for five mornings a week. He has a hearing impairment and has worn hearing aids since birth.</p> <p>The batteries in Jerome's hearing aids need changing frequently and you always have spares in the office. You begin to notice that the batteries in the hearing aids are often flat, particularly after the weekend. You ask Jerome about this to which he replies that he tells his parents that he can't hear but is told to wait until he gets to pre-school as they will be changed there. Other than this, Jerome is generally well cared for.</p>
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>Jerome is three years old and attends pre-school for five mornings a week. He has a hearing impairment and has worn hearing aids since birth.</p> <p>The batteries in Jerome's hearing aids need changing frequently and you always have spares in the office. You begin to notice that the batteries in the hearing aids are often flat, particularly after the weekend. You ask Jerome about this to which he replies that he tells his parents that he can't hear but is told to wait until he gets to pre-school as they will be changed there. Other than this, Jerome is generally well cared for.</p>
What type(s) of abuse may have taken place?	<p>Neglect/acts of omission. Emotional abuse.</p>
What are the factors that indicate this?	<p>Jerome's parents are neglecting to put batteries in his hearing aids. This is having a harmful effect on Jerome's emotional health and development as he is unable to communicate fully for periods of time.</p>
What actions might be taken?	<p>Discussion with parents to discuss the importance of changing the batteries. Referral to health visitor. Notes placed on Jerome's file to make sure that all staff check the batteries in his hearing aids.</p>
By whom might these actions be taken?	<p>The nursery manager.</p>
Comment	<p>Even though Jerome is generally well cared for, not replacing batteries in his hearing aid means that he can't fully communicate. This may affect his self-esteem and may see him withdraw as he can't hear what others are saying and may be unable to respond.</p> <p>This may also have a significant effect on his emotional health and well-being. If it continues over a period of time, it may affect his development/progress particularly on entry to school.</p>

