



# Type of Child Abuse

## Physical Abuse:

Physical abuse is violence causing injury or occurring regularly during childhood. It happens when:

- A child is hurt or injured by being hit, shaken, squeezed, thrown, burned, scalded, bitten or cut
- Someone tries to drown or suffocate a child
- Someone gives a child poison, alcohol or inappropriate drugs
- Someone fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

In some cases the injuries will be caused deliberately. In others they may be accidental but caused by the child being knowingly put at risk.

## Sexual Abuse:

Sexual abuse occurs when someone uses power or control to involve a child in sexual activity in order to gratify the abuser's own sexual, emotional or financial needs or desires. It may include:

- Forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening
- Encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways
- Showing children pornographic material or involving them in the production of such material
- Involving children in watching other people's sexual activity or in inappropriate discussions about sexual matters

## Neglect:

Neglect involves persistently failing to meet a child's physical, psychological or emotional needs. It may include:

- Failing to ensure that a child's basic needs for food, shelter, clothing, health care, hygiene and education are met

- Failing to provide appropriate supervision to keep a child out of danger. This could include a lack of supervision in particular activities or leaving a child alone in the house.

### Emotional Abuse:

Emotional abuse is persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment of a child that is likely to cause serious harm to his/her development. It may include:

- Persistently denying the child love and affection
- Regularly making the child feel frightened by shouts, threats or any other means
- Hurting another person or a pet in order to distress a child
- Being so over-protective towards the child that he/she is unable to develop or lead a normal life
- Exploiting or corrupting a child, eg by involving him/her in illegal behaviour
- Conveying to the child the message that he/she is worthless, unlovable, inadequate, or that his or her only value is to meet the needs of another person. This may or may not include racist, homophobic or other forms of abuse.

### New emerging abuse:

As there have been advances in digital technology, new threats have emerged that relate to the increasing amount of time that children and young people spend online and to the ways in which abusers use online methods to contact children and co-ordinate crime networks designed to exploit and abuse them. Child trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children for financial gain are also persistent issues that lead to children and young people being harmed.

For information from NSPCC about the signs and symptoms of abuse [click here](#).