



CHILD NEGLECT

St Mary and Arch Angel Michael Church
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- Mrs: B

- RN: M

- A True story during my training .

Child Neglect: In The Abuse Spectrum

- Until the 20th century children were looked at as property.
- Most of us don't want to think about abuse or neglect.
- For some people, it is even unthinkable.
- 3 million cases are reported yearly.
- 1 million of these are substantiated.
- 60% of these cases are neglect.
- Recent study showed that neglect had dropped from 20% in 2000 to 9.9% in 2011.
(Cawson & Radford, et al)



Child Neglect Can Be

- ❑ Physical, including medical care
- ❑ Educational
- ❑ Emotional



Definition Of Child Neglect

- Failure to provide a child with adequate:
 - ▣ Food
 - ▣ Clothing
 - ▣ Shelter
 - ▣ Supervision
- Not attending to a child's medical needs:
 - ▣ Leaving dental cavities untreated
 - ▣ Failing to seek medical attention for a serious illness or injury.
- Abandoning a child: lack of supervision and guidance .



Both Abuse and Neglect Have the Following Criteria

1. An omission (failure to perform an act that is agreed upon) on the part of the caregiver.
 2. An effect upon the child.
The effect may be physical, behavioral, emotional, or cognitive/developmental.
- Neglect is recognized as :
physical neglect, abandonment,
and medical neglect.



Child Neglect is NOT



- ❑ Not related to accidental injury.
- ❑ Not related to spanking or paddling to discipline the child as long as it is not causing bodily injury.
- ❑ Not related to cultural rituals like Eastern European covering a new born with ETOH blanket to calm him/her down or some African cultures do skin scratches to fight fever

Risk Factors

- ❑ Born prematurely.
- ❑ Children with disability.
- ❑ Having run away from home.
- ❑ Being an adolescent out of an adult's control.



Possible Parental Reasons for Neglect

- A) Family crisis:

- Job loss
- Serious illness
- Divorce

- B) Chronic and/or intergenerational patterns, such as:

- 1) Chaotic households

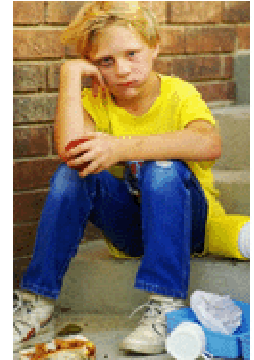
- 2) No structure or routines, such as regular

- meal time

- bedtime

- homework time

- 3) Lack of space in the household set aside specifically for the child



Proportionality Must Be Taken Into Consideration:



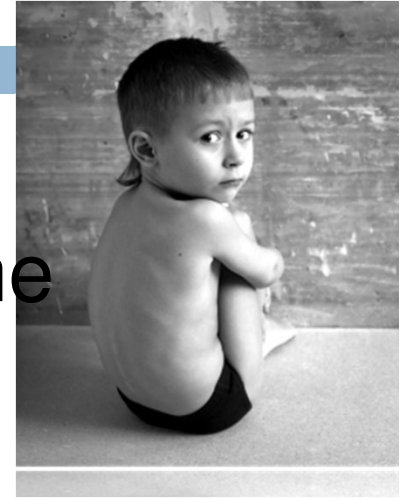
Which is the consequences to the child :

- For instance, a five-year-old is more likely to experience greater harm from parental failure to provide meals than a twelve-year-old



Physical Indicators of Neglect:

1. Malnourished.
2. Lethargic: not sleeping well at home
3. Uncleanliness or cloth are inappropriate for weather,
4. Frequently untreated medical conditions: dental decay, skin lesions that are not attended to .
5. Frequent injuries that might have resulted from lack of supervision, or abuse by others: e.g: neighbors or baby sitters.



Emotional Indicators

- ❑ Poor self-esteem
- ❑ Attachment difficulties:
not strongly attached to mom or dad.
- ❑ Emotional neediness
- ❑ Social problems; reduced pro-social behaviors
- ❑ Difficulty setting personal boundaries
- ❑ Inability to say “no” to inappropriate requests
(related to neediness for attention)
- ❑ Impaired initiative



Cognitive/Developmental/Academic Indicators

- ❑ Children who have been neglected may suffer cognitive/developmental consequences that show up as difficulties in school and with academic pursuits, including:
 - ❑ Excessive absences
 - ❑ Lack of learned self-discipline
 - ❑ Inability to apply self to a task
 - ❑ Poor grades
 - ❑ Learning difficulties




Recognizing Neglect



Because of legal aspects of neglect or abuse, we need to be careful in assessing them.

- 1st of all : who can diagnose neglect or abuse?



ANYONE

- Forensic psychiatric recommendations are to report any suspicions ASAP to CPS (Child Protective Services)





As Servants...



- ❑ Being in the church and being servants, our main goal is salvation.
- ❑ We need to be careful.
- ❑ Knee reflex technique is not the best way to act as:
 1. It is not an emergency but rather urgent, if you notice it, meaning it has been happening for a while.
 2. Knee reflex actions might result in tribulation to the whole family = harm more than benefit.

Knee Reflex Example

- A good person, a caring father was throwing a book without looking = accidental injury.
- Teacher and school reacting in a reflex way.
- Everyone suffered unnecessary, mostly children !!!!!
- if you react this way, there're no legal implications, but there is a risk that the family leaves the church and continue the neglect.
- I.E. This is not a treatment. [[[Primum non nocere.]]]

What should we do?

□ *Not written in any of the references...*

1. Pray 1st for the whole house.
2. Speak to mom or dad and see and hear their side of the story
 1. Hear not talk and not interrogate and make sure that you cannot talk to them like a judge
 2. Use Jesus' technique: ALWAYS BE KIND.
3. Try to skillfully introduce ALL your observed findings from milder to more severe.
4. Try to skillfully ask about similar incidents in school or in the community.
5. Try to observe caregiver behavior during discussion.
6. When you have any suspicions bring them to the church administration
 1. They would be the ones who will involve CPS if needed.
7. CPS: if neglect or abuse is confirmed, they usually remove all parental rights and they assume legal surrogate for the child hence they make all decisions pertaining to child care.
8. 6) Try to offer more help in various aspects

How about we practice our expertise



- For emotional neglect , as a servant and main motivation to serve is love.
- Meaning , a servant is someone that loves.
- We can offer emotional support , love and care to the child that we feel is deprived.
- That is what we are good at !!

How can you help?

- Again the main goal is spiritual support.
- Social help, psychological support, financial support, medical support.
- At this point you will end up being a positive influence.
- My previous case:
 - ▣ I was involved after child was placed in custody.
 - ▣ Judge stated that if the father has any intentions for treatment, the child will be released to him immediately.

Is This Neglect?



- Poverty
 - ▣ A child's parents cannot afford to get her needed prescription glasses. Is this neglect?
- Home alone
 - ▣ 11-year-old Melissa is home alone every day after school until her mother comes home from work. Is this neglect?
- Dirty child
 - ▣ Louis consistently comes to school dirty. Is that neglect?
- Substance abuse
 - ▣ You know that Beth's mother abuses alcohol. Even though Beth seems well cared for, is that neglect?

Is This Neglect?

- Preventive health care
 - ▣ You discover that Peter has never been to the dentist. Is this neglect?
- Educational neglect
 - ▣ Cynthia is truant from school. Is that neglect?
- Seat belts
 - ▣ Linda's mother never makes her wear a seat belt, and does not put her 2-year-old sister in a safety seat. Is this neglect?



Glory be to God Forever.