

Name

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Date

### **Child Neglect**

Child neglect refers to the inefficient care given to children and the chronic failure by parents to meet a child's basic needs. In 2006, the Department for Education and Skills (United Kingdom) defined neglect as the persistent inability to meet the physical and psychological needs of a child that may lead to serious health or developmental impairment (Department for Education and Skills 22). Child neglect, therefore, encompasses the inability of a child's caretaker to meet a child's emotional, physical, educational and medical needs (Child Welfare Information Gateway, website). To support a child's long term growth, parent should provide short term comfort in order to avoid neglect.

Neglect is mostly discovered through an ongoing and consistent pattern whereby there is inadequate care for children. This pattern can be easily observed by individuals who are in proximity to the child. Mostly, more clear indicators include poor observance of hygiene, uncontrolled weight gain, poor healthcare and even frequent absences from school.

There are significant ways in which parents can neglect their children. They include physical, educational or emotional. Physical neglect involves a child's caretaker not availing necessities to a child, which include the adequate provision of food, shelter and clothing. The failure of providing basic needs may lead to a child's physical well-being, psychological growth and development being endangered. Physical neglect can also include the abandoning of a child, inadequate child supervision, rejection and failure to provide security and emotional needs. This kind of neglect can cause malnutrition, physical harm such as cuts and

bruises or injuries due to no supervision, low self-esteem for a lifetime and also serious illness (Turney 198).

Neglect in the educational development can be seen when a parent or caregiver fails to enroll a child within the mandatory school age bracket in a school. It is also a failure to provide appropriate homeschooling or even avail access to specialized educational training for a child, which can lead a child to be deeply engaged in chronic truancy. Educational neglect also leads to the failure of a child to acquiring the basic life skills, dropping out of school or a consistent exhibition of disruptive behavior by a child. Therefore, the neglect on the educational basis of a child can be threatening to the physical and emotional health, the psychological growth and development of a child especially if they require special educational needs which are not availed.

Emotional neglect involves the engagement of extreme adult abuse in the presence of a child. An instance is when spouses engage in violence in the presence of a child, allowing a child to abuse drugs and consume alcohol, failure to give the necessary psychological care and also to withhold affection from a child. Parents ignoring a child, which is seen as a failure to respond to the need essential to a child's stimulation, nurture and protection are also considered emotional maltreatment. Some parents also verbally assault children, terrorise them by threatening children with severe punishments or even creating an environment where a child is always fearful and scared. Emotional neglect can lead to engagement of children in illegal, destructive and antisocial behaviours (Turney 196).

Parents can, therefore, provide comfort in ways that will inhibit risk factors which cause child neglect. The emotional engagement of parents with their children plays a significant role in a child's upbringing. Studies show that the involvement of parents and children emotionally helps build their competence and regulation. Emotional involvement

helps children effectively interact with others and learn how to regulate their emotions effectively (Polonko 264).

Early attachment relationships between parents and children enhance their emotional development later in life. These variations in the manner of relationships are not genetically based but through the history of how parents interact with their children. If children are anxiously attached to their parents, there is a high chance that they are likely to be disturbed emotionally and later have low self-esteem. Studies have been done to show the effect depressed mothers have on the emotional development of their children. Children tend to develop emotional problems of their own. Children also see how their parents interact with people, display emotions and they imitate them (Sheffield Morris, Silk and Steinberg 361).

Parents should also provide the necessary education to their children. This can be through being a role model for learning. Helping them through guidance, organise their time and assist them to discover and support them. Parents are also expected to pay attention to what children love. They should also help connect what their children learn to real life situations. In the case of special education, parents should make it a priority for the children since school increases the level of interaction a child has with its peers. Advocate various services for children to engage in through community groups (DePanfilis 12).

Lastly, a parent should avail proper medical attention to their children in the time of need. Proper vaccination and immunisation include the kind of care a child needs. Through adequate medical care, the practitioners can help a great deal through discovering the physical and psychological conditions of children. This will maintain a good upkeep of the child both in the present and future (Bhatia and Katz 1398).

## References

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