|  |
| --- |
| **Physical Abuse** |
| **Description** | **Examples of actions that would constitute physical abuse** | Examples of category specific signs / indicators | Examples of factors that could cause confusion |
| A child is being abused in such a way as to cause physical harm. | * Physical assaults that do not involve the use of a weapon or other implement; kicking, , punching, slapping, pushing, pinching, scratching or pulling hair spitting etc.
* Use of an implement or weapon or throwing things; household items not normally considered to be weapons, DIY tools, knives or other kitchen implements etc.
* Burning or scalding
* Choking, strangling
* Poisoning including over medicating, inappropriate use of medicine, alcohol etc. (for example to “help the child to sleep”)
* Withholding or withdrawing medical treatments or attention
* Starvation, withholding drinks etc. so as to cause malnutrition or dehydration
* Force feeding, causing excessive obesity through overfeeding / inappropriate diet
* Inappropriate or rough handling, including when performing personal care or administering first aid (eg removing a plaster forcefully so as to cause tearing of the skin)
* The use of excessive force or inappropriate restraint
* Bullying that involves physical harm
* Physical abuse can happen antenatally through substance misuse etc.
 | * Bruising
* Burns
* Cuts / lacerations
* Fractures or breaks
* Black eye
* Unexplained marks
* Untreated medical need (e.g. skin conditions nappy rash etc.)
* Stench of urine / faeces
* Drowsiness / excessive sleep
* Loss of weight
* Hunger / thirst
* Wearing extra layers of clothing
* Aggressive or violent behaviours
* Withdrawn, anxious, flinching in specific situations or with specific people
 | * Mongolian Blue Spot
* Brittle bones
* Leukaemia
* Other medical conditions

NB. It is not illegal for a parent to smack a child so long as the smack does not leave a lasting mark (e.g. not lasting more than 5 minutes or so). If the smack causes bruising it is excessive and is abuse and smacking in inappropriate places (e.g. head) is abuse.NB. The considered decision not to have a child vaccinated is not abuse but failing to attend appointments may indicate neglect. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Emotional or psychological abuse** |
| **Description** | **Examples of actions that would constitute emotional or psychological abuse** | **Examples of category specific signs / indicators** | **Examples of factors that could cause confusion** |
| The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child resulting in ongoing severe adverse effects on emotional development.   | * Making a child feel afraid, intimidated anxious or ridiculed including domineering behaviour
* Threatening the child, someone else, threatening to harm pets etc.
* Verbal abuse; shouting, name calling, swearing, use of inappropriate nicknames or descriptions etc.
* Causing a sense of worthlessness or inadequacy
* Making a child feel unloved or only conditionally loved (eg making a child feel that they are only valued or loved insofar as they meet the needs or expectations of someone else)
* Suppressing or denying the opportunity for the child to express their views, intentionally silencing them, ridiculing them for their views or beliefs or for the way they communicate
* Expectations that are age or developmentally inappropriate are imposed on the child (over expectation or overprotectiveness that denies or impedes the child’s development)
* Preventing appropriate social contact and interaction, isolation, ignoring or excluding, abandonment and imprisonment
* Bullying; including cyber bullying and harassment
* Emotional blackmail
* Making the child feel that they are in danger
* Exploiting or corrupting a child
* Denying access to services or support
* Denial of human rights
 | * Excessive fear or anxiety
* Flinching in the presence of a particular person or in particular circumstances
* Unusual patterns of crying / weeping / sobbing, etc.
* Low self-esteem
* Insomnia, sleep deprivation or the need for excessive sleep
* Change in appetite
* Unusual or unexplained weight loss or gain
* Paranoia
* Mood swings, changes in mood or behaviour
* Withdrawal and inability or discomfort with social situations and interaction
 | * Death or illness in the family
* Family relationship breakdown
* Family stress or specific family issues
* Medical or psychological conditions
* Death of a pet
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Neglect** |
| **Description** | **Examples of actions that would constitute neglect** | **Examples of category specific signs / indicators** | **Examples of factors that could cause confusion** |
| Persistent failure to meet the basic physical and/or psychological needs of the child to the extent that it is likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health or development.   | * Can occur antenatally through such things as maternal substance misuse
* Failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter
* Failure to protect a child from physical or emotional danger
* Abandonment, being left “home alone”, inadequate supervision (including inappropriate or inadequate care givers)
* Failure to provide adequate medical care (attending appointments, administering medications and / or treatments)
* Unresponsiveness to a child’s basic emotional, psychological or developmental needs
 | * Significant needs persistently unmet
* Poor physical care
* Lack of food / drink inappropriate or inadequate diet
* Failure to access medical care or to follow medical advice / instruction
* Inappropriate clothing
* Poor hygiene
* Lack or supervision
* Isolation, ignoring, exclusion
* Lack of heating / lighting
* Leaving a child to lie in faeces / urine
* Not aiding communication or providing adequate stimulation
* Failure to meet cultural, religious or social needs
* Neglecting pets
 | * Medical conditions
* Poverty
* Family stresses
* Parental disabilities / young carers
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **Sexual abuse** |
| **Description** | **Examples of actions that would constitute sexual abuse** | **Examples of category specific signs / indicators** | **Examples of factors that could cause confusion** |
| Forcing, enticing or coercing a child into engaging in sexual activity or exposing a child to sexual materials or activity, whether or not the child is aware or the significance of what is happening.  | * Forcing, coercing or enticing a child into sexual activity including grooming a child in preparation for abuse
* Physical sexual contact; rape (vaginally or anally), oral sex, penetration with an object, inappropriate touching / rubbing, fondling (whether inside or outside of the clothing) , kissing, masturbation etc.
* Non-contact activities; the viewing or production of sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, grooming a child in preparation for abuse
* Sexualised language or conversation
* Sexual harassment
* Indecent exposure
* Voyeurism
* Exploitation, causing someone to enter into prostitution
* Satanic or ritual abuse
* Bestiality
 | * Genital or urinary irritation or bruising in the genital area
* Frequent infections, pain or itching in the genital area
* Bleeding from the anus or vagina
* Sexually transmitted infections
* Stains on underwear or nightwear
* Wetting / soiling
* Bruising in inner thighs or upper arms
* Difficulty in walking and or sitting
* Wearing extra clothing
* Depression
* Role play
* Sexualised language or behaviour that is inappropriate for age or developmental stage
* Nightmares / flashbacks
* Agitation, upset or withdrawal from any physical contact
 | * Medical conditions or infections
* Excessive masturbation
* Age / developmentally appropriate inquisitiveness, exploration and play
 |