

Identify the
characteristics of
different types of child
abuse essay



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Physical child abuse is an injury resulting from physical aggression even if the injury was not intended the act is considered physical abuse. Beating, slapping and hitting. Pushing, shaking, kicking or throwing. Pinching, biting, choking or hair pulling. Burning with cigarettes, scalding with hot water or other hot objects. Severe physical punishment. The signs of physical abuse are often easy to spot and can include bruises, cuts, burns and other injuries. Less obvious signs may include fear of physical contact with others, reluctance to change in public for P. E. or swimming lessons, wanting to stay covered up even when very hot and aggression. Shaking Baby Syndrome where the baby is shaken so violently it causes severe head injuries. Munchausen by Proxy Syndrome where the parent or main carer induces medical illness in a child wrongly convincing others that the child is sick.

Sexual abuse of a child is any sexual act between an adult and a child including penetration, incest, rape, oral sex and sodomy. Fondling or touching, kissing a child or getting the child to inappropriately touch an adult's genitals. Violation of body privacy forcing a child to undress, spying on a child in the bathroom, bedroom or more publically in play parks or swimming pools. Exposing children to adult material, performing sexual acts in front of the child, exposing genitals or showing a child pornography. Commercial exploitation through child prostitution or child pornography. Signs to look out for are inappropriate sexual behaviour consistent with the child's age, genital irritation, changes in behaviour such as suddenly becoming very clingy, lack of trust of adults.

Emotional and psychological abuse of a child is a pattern of intentional verbal attacks or lack of actions that convey a negative message to the child

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that they are unloved and unwanted. Making the child feel worthless, withholding emotional support, isolation or terrorising a child are forms of abuse. Domestic violence that is witnessed by a child is also considered to be a form of emotional abuse. Rejection is to neglect a child, push them away, make them feel worthless or to undermine their values and feelings. Scorn or to demean, ridicule or humiliate to make them feel ashamed criticized or insulted.

Terrosism is to threaten a child with the physical violence to hurt someone or something they are close to. To destroy the childs possessions and to threaten with unreasonable punishment if the child does not comply. Isolation where the child is physically isolated or socially isolated from socialising with others. Signs of emotional abuse can be a child being withdrawn and lacking confidence, becoming clingy towards adults and have a low self esteem. They are likely to be anxious about new situations and may be unable to concentrate and appear distracted.

To ignore a childs health and educational needs. Child neglect is the failure to provide care for the childs basic needs such as not providing food, shelter or supervision. Failing to provide medical or mental health help. Failure to comply with educational needs. Permitting a child to use alcohol or other drugs. Showing a lack of regard to the child, not showing affection. Ignoring the childs presence and obvious needs in times of comfort. Name calling or not calling the child by his or her correct name and a continuous verbal abuse. Signs of neglect can include the child being dirty, tired, hungry attention seeking and failing to thrive.