

The Four Types of Neglect

Emotional Neglect

- This ranges from the child being ignored to being completely rejected
- There is persistent ill treatment of the child
- The child feels worthless and inadequate
- Families may keep the child silent, scapegoat the child or, withhold affection or emotion and may not do things for the child

Depressed/Passive Neglect

- Parents or carers are unmotivated or do not understand the child's needs
- Parents or carers do not believe that anything can change and feel passive and helpless
- Frequently there is a failure to meet the child's emotional and physical needs
- This may sometimes be due to parental mental health issues

Disorganised Neglect

- This ranges from inconsistent parenting to chaotic parenting
- Families are frequently coming into contact with services and are often characterised as “problem families” or “crisis ridden” families
- There is often little hostility towards professionals and a willingness to engage
- Frequent change in family life
- Parents' feelings dominate behaviour
- Children display demanding or attention seeking behaviour

Severe Deprivation Neglect

- This can range from a child being left to cry to a child being left to die
- The children and their home can be dirty and smelly
- Children can be completely deprived of love, stimulation, emotional warmth, or completely ignored
- Children can be left unattended or let out inappropriately by themselves
- In the most extreme cases prognosis is usually poor.