



Child protection

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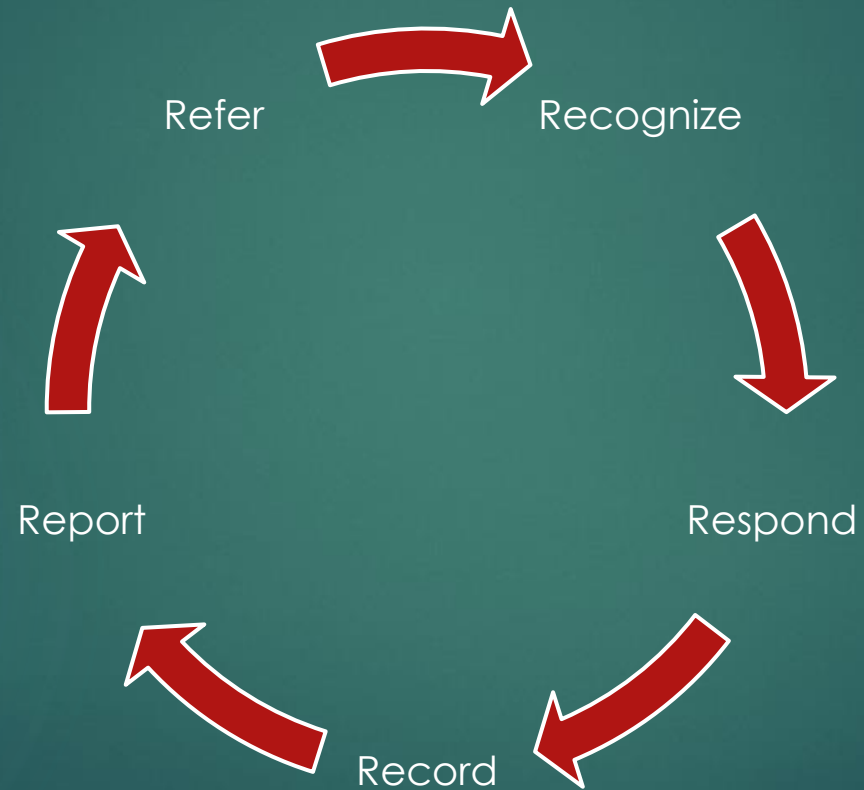
Children's Rights (Children's Act)

- ▶ name and nationality.
- ▶ Family care, or appropriate alternative care.
- ▶ Basic nutrition, shelter, health care and social services.
- ▶ Protection from neglect, maltreatment and abuse.
- ▶ Protection from exploitative labour services, including work or services that are inappropriate.
- ▶ Protection from being used in armed conflict and protection during times of armed conflict.

What is Child's Protection?

- ▶ South Africa's Constitution and the Children's Act (Act No. 38 of 2005) place a legal and moral obligation on every adult to protect children.
- ▶ Understanding Article 28 of the Constitution, which guarantees every child the right to protection from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation, is the first step towards meaningful action.
- ▶ Children thrive better in safe , secure and loving environment.
- ▶ Child protection is everyone's business and every abuse or neglect should matter.
- ▶ We have to break the cycle and save our children.

How can we assist as health care workers?



Guiding principles of Safeguard

- ▶ Be able to spot signs of abuse, harm and neglect
- ▶ Understand what appropriate action should be taken
- ▶ Note down all relevant information related to your concern
- ▶ Inform the necessary individual or organisation of the safeguarding incident

Key components of Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a comprehensive approach to protecting vulnerable individuals, including at-risk adults and children, from harm and abuse. For children, it involves ensuring their welfare and protection from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as neglect.

- ▶ a) Prevention
- ▶ b) Protection
- ▶ c) Partnership
- ▶ d) Empowerment
- ▶ e) Accountability

Recognition

- ▶ The first step in safeguarding is recognising the risk of abuse, which can manifest as physical, mental, or emotional harm.

Red flags for physical abuse:

Red flag history for child Abuse

Caregiver offers no history or specifically denies history of trauma despite severe injuries

Implausible history for degree or type of injury

Unexplained or excessive delay in seeking help
Injury attributed to in-home resuscitation efforts

Caregiver histories that change with retelling or conflict with versions from other observers

Severe injury explained as self-inflicted or blamed on other young children or pets

Red flag physical findings

- ▶ It depends on the age of the infant or young child
- ▶ Soft tissue injury like frenulum tears or unexplained oral injuries and any bruise (TEN-4-FACES-p)
- ▶ Burns
- ▶ Fractures
- ▶ Intracranial
- ▶ Visceral injuries

Child Neglect

- ▶ Child neglect refers to any action or failure to act which causes serious physical or emotional harm or death or puts the child at imminent risk for such harm
- ▶ Neglected children may :
 - be slow to learn to walk and talk
 - Be very passive and unable to be spontaneous
 - Have feeding problems and grow slowly
 - Find hard to develop close relations or be over friendly with strangers
 - Be easily distracted and do badly at school

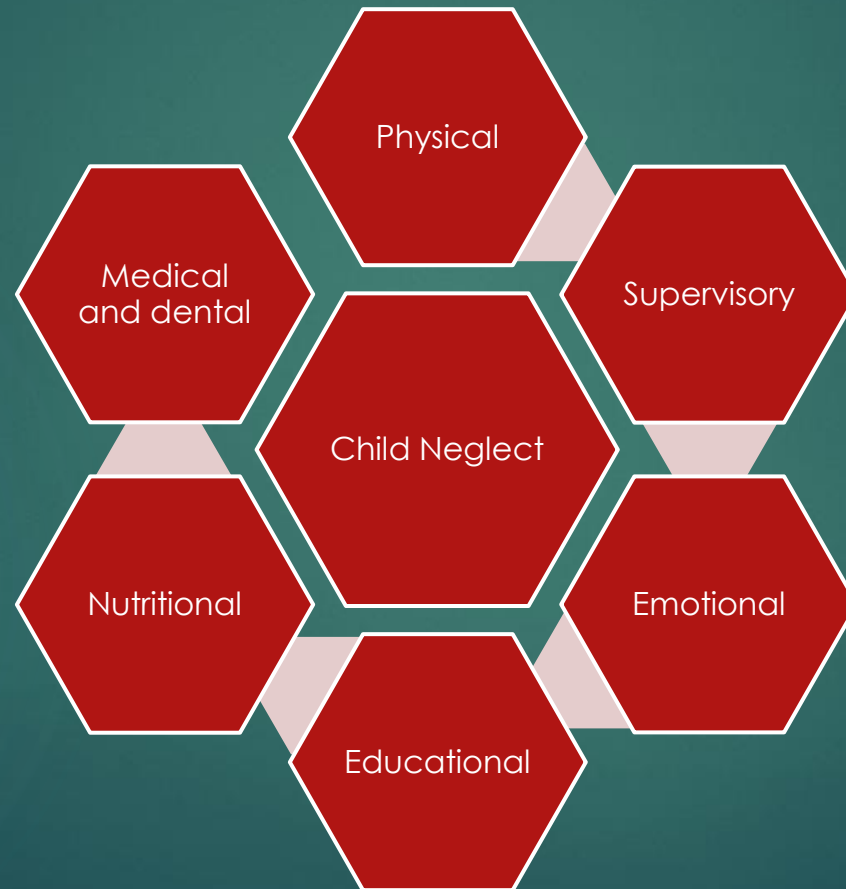
Risk Factors for Child neglect



Protective Factors

- ▶ Healthy nurturing
- ▶ Caregiver who is knowledgeable about parenting and child development
- ▶ Parental resilience
- ▶ social connections
- ▶ Concrete supports
- ▶ Social / emotional competence of the child

Types of Social Neglect



Sexual Abuse

- ▶ Sexual abuse is defined as attempted sexual touching of another person without their consent and includes sexual intercourse (rape), sodomy (oral-genital or anal-genital contact), and fondling.
- ▶ Sexual abuse is when a child engages in sexual activity for which they cannot give consent, is unprepared for developmentally, cannot comprehend or activity that violates the law.

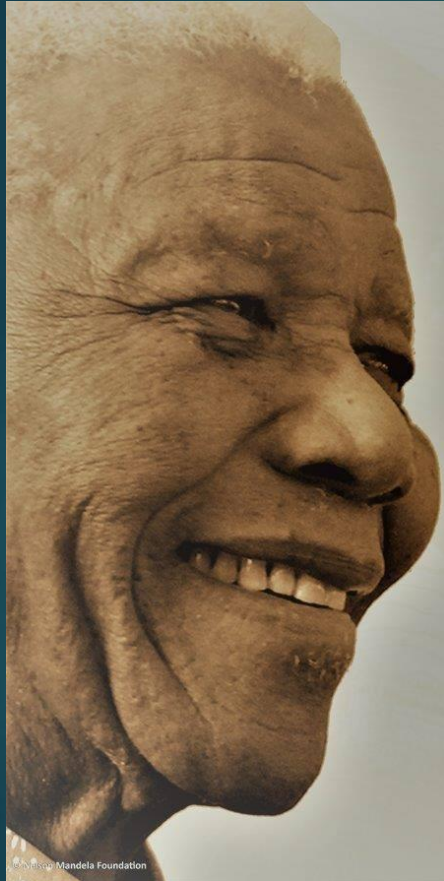
Respond

- ▶ Assess for danger signs or life-threatening condition then stabilize the child
- ▶ Examine the patient head to toes and investigate appropriately
- ▶ Manage the patient appropriately
- ▶ Observe relationship with the care-giver or look for other clues to intensify the evidence

Record, Report and Refer

- ▶ Record clearly and comprehensively
- ▶ Make a copy and put in a safe lockable place
- ▶ Report the incidence and refer (Form 22) for social development , psychologist/ psychiatrist or police

Thank you



"Giving children a healthy start in life, no matter where they are born or the circumstances of their birth, is the moral obligation of every one of us"

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela



Our children are our greatest treasure. They are our future. Those who abuse them tear at the fabric of our society and weaken our nation.

— *Nelson Mandela* —

AZ QUOTES