

## What you should do

- Listen to the child
- Take what the child says seriously
- Act fast
- Share your worries with Children's Social Care, the Police or the NSPCC – all are there to help you
- Continue to offer the child support

### Don't

- Put it off
- Press the child for explanations
- Leave it to someone else to help the child
- Be afraid to voice your concerns, the child may need urgent help and protection

### Remember

Any child, anywhere, can be abused at any time. Children with disabilities are especially vulnerable. Child abuse can be committed by anyone – adults or children.



## Useful telephone numbers

### Call Derbyshire:

**Monday – Friday 8am – 8pm**

**01629 533190**

**Saturday 9.30 – 4pm 01629 533190**

**Out of these hours 01629 532600**

**Derbyshire Police 111**

**In an emergency 999**

**NSPCC 0808 800 5000**

**Childline 0800 11 11**



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## Safeguarding Children

Identifying abuse and what you should do

## What is child abuse

Any child can be abused anywhere at any time. Children with disabilities are especially vulnerable. Children can be abused by anyone – adults or other children.

Child abuse takes many forms, for example:

**Physical Abuse** - When children are hurt or injured by others, for example, shaking, or squeezing.

Signs to look out for

- Unexplained injuries, bruises or marks
- Fear, watchfulness, over-anxious to please
- Small, round burns or bite marks
- Frequent absences from school

**Sexual Abuse** - When children are used by others to

meet their own sexual needs. This might include sexual activity involving the child or showing the children pornographic material on videos or the internet

Signs to look out for

- Comments about sexual activity
- Sexual knowledge or comments which are not what you would expect from a child
- Sexual behaviour which is not what you would expect from a child
- Unexpected reactions of fear or wariness to people
- Repeated urinary or genital infections  
Pregnancy/sexually transmitted disease

**Emotion Abuse** - When children are persistently denied love and affection. Children will suffer if they are shouted at, made to feel stupid, rejected, used as scapegoats or live in a violent environment.

Signs to look out for

- Unexplained gifts of money
- Withdrawn, anxious behaviour, lack of self confidence
- Self-harming and eating disorders
- Demanding or attention seeking Behaviour
- Unwillingness to communicate
- Repetitive, nervous behaviour such as rocking, hair twisting

**Neglect** - Where no one meets children's basic needs for food, warmth, protection, education and care, including health care.

Signs to look out for

- Clothing is often dirty, scruffy or unsuitable for the weather
- No one seeks medical help when the child is ill or hurt
- The child has poor hygiene
- The child is left alone with unsuitable carers
- The child is thin, pale, lacking in energy
- The child has lots of accidents

The child is exposed to risks or dangers, such as the home being un-safe or drugs/needles being left around.

In addition, children are exposed to other forms of risk which fall under the umbrella of safeguarding. These include:-

- Bullying including cyber bullying
- Child sexual exploitation (CSE)
- Child criminal exploitation
- Domestic Violence
- Drugs
- Fabricated or induced illness
- Faith abuse
- Female Genital Mutilation – FGM
- Forced Marriage
- Gangs and Youth Violence
- Gender based violence/Violence against women and girls
- Hate
- Private Fostering
- Radicalisation
- On-line abuse/Sexting
- Teenage Relationship abuse
- Trafficking
- Child sexual abuse within the family
- Poor parenting, particularly in relation to babies and young children
- Mental Health
- Breast ironing

For further information please check:

[www.ddscp.org.uk](http://www.ddscp.org.uk)