



# Focus on...

## Signs and symptoms of abuse

### Emotional Abuse

Limited engagement in play with few friends  
Child struggles to control their emotions  
Evidence of a lack of attachment to parents/carers  
There are unresolved issues arising from parents separation or divorce  
Lack of interest in the child shown by parents/carers

### Neglect

Poor appearance and hygiene  
Missed medical appointments eg vaccinations  
Child becomes clingy, aggressive or anxious  
Regular illness or infections  
Child not being appropriately toilet trained as this takes patience, persistence and encouragement

### Physical Abuse

Bruises, broken or fractured bones, burns or scalds, bite marks  
Head injuries in babies and toddlers can be a sign of abuse, look out for: swelling, bruises, fractures, seizures or drowsiness  
Regular injuries to a child with no plausible explanation

### Sexual

Child using language or behaviour you wouldn't expect them to know  
Bleeding, discharge, pain or soreness in their genital or anal area  
Forcing other children to engage in sexual play  
Persistently touching the genitals of other children or adults

### Resources to help us:

Working Well in Lancashire [wwwcf-part-1-and-2-final.pdf \(lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk\)](#)

Lancashire neglect strategy [Lancashire Multi-Agency Neglect Strategy 2022–2024- Lancashire County Council](#)

Sexual behaviours traffic light tool [Brook Traffic Lights: age \(proceduresonline.com\)](#)

General signs and symptoms [Types of Child Abuse & How to Prevent Them | NSPCC](#)

- Top tip – Ensure you are confident with your knowledge of child development. This way you are more likely to notice when something is of concern.

FREE online training: [Early years child development training : Home page \(education.gov.uk\)](#)

