

Ns. Arif Rohman Mansur, S.Kep., M.Kep



Addressing Child Neglect

Importance and
Strategies for
Action



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Ns. Ira Mulya Sari, M.Kep., Sp.Kep. An

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Society is very complicated, but the well-being of our children is one of the most essential parts. It shows that we all must care for the next generation. Still, there is a sad color that stands out among the bright colors of progress: the color of child abuse. There is a shadowy influence in communities that goes unnoticed and unaddressed most of the time. Still, it has terrible effects on the innocent people it captures. Child neglect, although often ignored, is a significant and complex issue. This book goes into great detail about it. By carefully examining this problem with compassion, we aim to illuminate its causes and effects and, most importantly, provide insights on how to stop it and support those affected.

We start to understand child neglect by looking at its different aspects. Each part lays the groundwork for a full investigation, from the different types of neglect-physical, emotional, medical, mental health, and educational-to how important it is to deal with this problem immediately. It looks at the complicated web of causes and risk factors. The next chapter will examine the intricate interplay of causes and risk factors. We look at how things like parental drug abuse, mental health problems, poverty, and the way communities work affect each other at both the individual and social levels. These are all things that make children more vulnerable. We talk about the long-term physical, mental, and emotional effects of abuse on children. It's a stark warning of how neglecting innocent people can change their lives for a long time. As a guide, she tells readers how to spot the signs and symptoms of abuse, giving them the power to step in and fight for the well-being of children who need it. We move on to proactive measures, looking at various education and awareness programs, the Safecare® Model, and effective Child Protective Services as examples of prevention and intervention methods. It is all about how society and the government respond to child abuse. The text highlights the importance of enforcing laws, promoting collaboration among agencies, and providing safe places for children to live. It goes into great depth about how nurses can handle cases of child neglect. It gives a complete plan for evaluating, helping, and working together with people from different fields in a healthcare setting. As we start this path together, let's not only learn more about child neglect but also recommit to protecting our children's health and safety because their growth holds the key to a better tomorrow.



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PREFACE

Alhamdulillahil-ladzii bini'matihi tatimmush-saalihaat. All praise be to Allah who with all His blessings all pretext deeds can be fully realized. The book entitled “Addressing Child Neglect: Importance and Strategies for Action “.

Society is very complicated, but the well-being of our children is one of the most important parts. It shows that we all have a duty to care for the next generation. Still, there is a sad color that stands out among the bright colors of progress: the color of child abuse. There is a shadowy influence in communities that goes unnoticed and unaddressed most of the time, but it has terrible effects on the innocent people it captures. Child neglect, although often ignored, is a significant and complex issue. This book goes into great detail about it. By carefully examining this problem with compassion, we aim to illuminate its causes, effects, and most importantly, provide insights on how to stop it and support those affected by it. We start to understand child neglect by looking at all of its different aspects. Each part lays the groundwork for a full investigation, from the different types of neglect—physical, emotional, medical, mental health, and educational—to how important it is to deal with this problem right away. It looks at the complicated web of causes and risk factors. In the next chapter, we will examine the intricate interplay of causes and risk factors. We look at how things like parental drug abuse, mental health problems, poverty, and the way communities work affect each other at both the individual and social levels. These are all things that make children more vulnerable. We talk about the long-term physical, mental, and emotional effects of abuse on children. It's a stark warning of how neglecting innocent people can change their lives for a long time. As a guide, she tells readers how to spot the signs and symptoms of abuse, giving them the power to step in and fight for the well-being of children who need it. We move on to proactive measures, where we look at a variety of education and awareness programs, the Safecare® Model, and effective Child Protective Services as examples of prevention and intervention methods. It is all about how society and the

government respond to child abuse. The text highlights the importance of enforcing laws, promoting collaboration among agencies, and providing safe places for children to live. Goes into great depth about how nurses can handle cases of child neglect. It gives a complete plan for evaluating, helping, and working together with people from different fields in a healthcare setting. As we start this path together, let's not only learn more about child neglect but also recommit to protecting our children's health and safety, because their growth holds the key to a better tomorrow.

Padang, February 7, 2024.

Author

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**ADDRESSING CHILD
NEGLECT:
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UNIT

1

INTRODUCTION CHILD NEGLECT

A. Definition And Brief Explanation Of Child Neglect

Child neglect refers to the failure of caregivers to provide adequate care, supervision, and support for a child's physical, emotional, and developmental needs. It involves the persistent disregard for a child's well-being, which can have long-lasting detrimental effects on their overall growth and functioning. Neglect can manifest in various forms such as failure to provide proper nutrition, medical care, education, or emotional support. It is crucial to understand the complexities of child neglect as it poses significant risks to a child's safety and overall development.



Figure 1 *Child Neglect Illustration*

CAUSES OF CHILD NEGLECT

A. Risk Factors for Child Maltreatment

1. Child
 - a. Born before due date
 - b. Having a bad temper
 - c. Having a long-term illness
 - d. Having multiple births
 - e. Having developmental or physical problems
2. Parent
 - a. Not being able to control their impulses or solve problems
 - b. Having low self-esteem
 - c. Having a mental health issue
 - d. Delay in development
 - e. Unreasonable or strict expectations about the child's needs and growth
 - f. Negative views of the child and the child's acts
 - g. A history of abuse as a child
3. Family
 - a. Isolation from others
 - b. Homelessness
 - c. Disorganization and lack of cohesion
 - d. Domestic violence
 - e. Bad interactions between parents and children
 - f. Poverty and unemployment
 - g. Stress
 - h. Substance abuse
 - i. Living with an unrelated adult male

EFFECTS OF CHILD NEGLECT

A. Physical Consequences (Malnutrition, Poor Hygiene, Health Issues)

Child neglect, defined as the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, has serious implications for the health and development of children (Bradbury-Jones et al., 2013). Neglect can lead to malnourishment, poor hygiene, and lack of medical care, resulting in negative health outcomes for children (Rathnayake et al., 2021). Physical neglect can have serious long-term consequences, such as impairments in brain development due to lack of supervision and inability to meet basic physical needs (Manso et al., 2020). Additionally, neglect can involve deprivation of food, clothing, shelter, and medical care, all of which have a direct impact on a child's physical well-being (Rontogianni et al., 2023). Child neglect has been found to directly impact both the physical and mental development of children, with lasting effects into their later years (Nguyen, 2018).

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CHILD NEGLECT

A. Lack Of Proper Clothing, Hygiene, And Nutrition



Figure 12 *Lack of Proper Clothing*

Child neglect encompasses various dimensions, including the failure to provide for a child's basic needs. This includes inadequate provision of food, clothing, shelter, and medical care (Mennen et al., 2010; Chiang et al., 2023). Neglect can be further categorized into subtypes, such as physical neglect, which involves disregard for physical safety, hygiene, and clothing (Jonson-Reid et al., 2012). Health visitors also perceive child

PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

A. Education And Awareness Programs For Parents And Communities

To address child neglect, it is essential to implement prevention and intervention strategies through education and awareness programs for parents and communities. Research has shown that various interventions can be effective in preventing child neglect. Home visiting, parent education, and community-based support and mutual aid groups have been identified as effective strategies (Mikton & Butchart, 2009). Additionally, it is important to consider the societal-level factors associated with child neglect, as interventions targeting entire communities or societies can have a greater and more sustained impact (Klevens et al., 2017). Furthermore, awareness-raising interventions aimed at changing parents' perceptions through community interaction have been effective in reducing child neglect, particularly when reinforced by education interventions (Chiodi & Escudero, 2020).

In addition to individual and family-level interventions, there has been a shift towards family- and community-based protection systems, emphasizing the importance of collective efficacy and protective effects on child maltreatment (Abdullah et al., 2020). Moreover, evidence suggests that culturally specific solutions, such as kinship care practice, can help resolve child neglect issues by proactively intervening and preventing abandonment, as well as utilizing family support (Abdullah et al., 2020). Furthermore, the Triple P-Positive Parenting

THE ROLE OF SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT

A. Legal Framework Child Neglect Laws And Consequences

Child neglect laws and consequences vary by jurisdiction, but generally, child neglect refers to a caregiver's failure to provide for a child's basic needs, including food, shelter, clothing, medical care, education, and supervision. Child neglect is considered a form of child abuse and is taken seriously by law enforcement and child protective services agencies. Each state in the United States has its own statutes and laws that define child neglect and outline the legal responsibilities of caregivers towards children (DePanfilis et al., 2006). These laws typically specify the actions or omissions that constitute neglect and may also outline the reporting requirements for suspected cases of neglect. Child neglect cases are often investigated by Child Protective Services (CPS) agencies, which have the authority to intervene, conduct investigations, and ensure the safety and well-being of children (Mathews & Kenny, 2008). Many jurisdictions have mandatory reporting laws that require certain professionals to report suspected cases of child neglect to the appropriate authorities, such as CPS or law enforcement (Font & Berger, 2014).

The definitions of child abuse and neglect vary across states, but they generally include any recent act or failure to act by a parent or caretaker which results in the death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious

NURSING MANAGEMENT

A. Nursing Assessment

A thorough nursing assessment is crucial when there is suspicion of child abuse or neglect. This involves gathering a detailed history and conducting a comprehensive physical examination. The results should be carefully documented and consultations with social service providers are essential. Using therapeutic communication strategies and providing a calm environment can be beneficial. It is essential to distinguish genuine child abuse from cultural differences that may be mistaken as signs of abuse. Establishing trust with parents is crucial for understanding abusive and neglectful behaviors.



Figure 29 Nursing Assessment

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GLOSSARY

1. **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs):** Traumatic events or experiences occurring during childhood, including neglect, abuse, household dysfunction, or community violence, that have lasting impacts on physical, emotional, and psychological well-being.
2. **Attachment Theory:** Psychological theory that explores the significance of early attachment relationships between infants and caregivers in shaping emotional development, interpersonal relationships, and psychological well-being throughout the lifespan.
3. **Child Abandonment:** Act of deserting or forsaking a child by a parent or caregiver, including leaving the child alone without adequate care, supervision, or support, resulting in physical, emotional, or psychological harm to the child.
4. **Child Abuse Prevention:** Efforts and strategies aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect through education, awareness, advocacy, policy development, and community-based programs focused on promoting safe and supportive environments for children and families.
5. **Child Abuse:** Intentional harm, mistreatment, or endangerment of a child's physical, emotional, or psychological well-being, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect.
6. **Child Advocacy Center (CAC):** Facility or organization that provides a coordinated, multidisciplinary response to cases of child abuse or neglect, offering forensic interviews, medical examinations, counseling, and support services to child victims and their families.
7. **Child Advocacy Centers (CACs):** Multi-disciplinary facilities or programs that provide coordinated, child-friendly services to child victims of abuse or neglect, including forensic interviews,

medical examinations, mental health services, and advocacy support, in a safe and supportive environment.

8. **Child Advocacy Laws:** Legal statutes and policies designed to protect and promote the rights and well-being of children, including laws governing child abuse, neglect, custody, adoption, education, healthcare, and juvenile justice.
9. **Child Advocacy Organizations:** Nonprofit organizations, advocacy groups, or associations dedicated to promoting the rights, safety, and well-being of children through advocacy, education, research, and support services focused on preventing and responding to child abuse and neglect.
10. **Child Advocacy:** Promotion and protection of children's rights, interests, and well-being through advocacy, education, and support services, including legal representation, policy advocacy, and community outreach.
11. **Child Development:** Process of growth, maturation, and learning experienced by children from infancy through adolescence, including physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development, influenced by environmental factors, caregiving, and life experiences.
12. **Child Emotional Abuse:** Pattern of behaviors or actions by a caregiver that undermine a child's emotional well-being, including verbal abuse, threats, rejection, isolation, or constant criticism, leading to psychological trauma, low self-esteem, and emotional distress.
13. **Child Endangerment:** Placing a child in situations or environments that pose a risk of harm or injury to the child's physical, emotional, or psychological well-being, including exposure to violence, substance abuse, neglect, or unsafe living conditions.
14. **Child Fatality Review:** Process of examining and analyzing cases of child deaths to identify contributing factors, including

neglect or abuse, and make recommendations for prevention and intervention strategies to improve child safety and well-being.

15. **Child Maltreatment:** Intentional harm or mistreatment of a child, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect, resulting in physical, emotional, or psychological harm.
16. **Child Neglect Fatality:** Death of a child resulting from severe or chronic neglect by a parent or caregiver, including failure to provide food, shelter, medical care, or supervision, leading to fatal injuries, illnesses, or neglect-related conditions.
17. **Child Neglect:** Failure of a parent or caregiver to provide for a child's basic needs, including food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and supervision, leading to harm or endangerment of the child's health and well-being.
18. **Child Physical Abuse:** Intentional or deliberate act of causing physical harm or injury to a child, including hitting, kicking, shaking, burning, or using physical force or weapons, resulting in bruises, fractures, internal injuries, or other physical trauma.
19. **Child Protection Laws:** Legal statutes and regulations designed to protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and maltreatment, including criminal penalties for offenders, mandatory reporting requirements, and provisions for child welfare services and interventions.
20. **Child Protection Plan:** Structured intervention plan developed by child welfare workers or multi-disciplinary teams to address safety concerns, protect children at risk of abuse or neglect, and ensure compliance with child protection laws and policies.
21. **Child Protection Services (CPS):** Government agencies responsible for investigating reports of child abuse or neglect, providing intervention and support services to ensure the safety and well-being of children, and coordinating with law enforcement, courts, and other agencies to protect children from harm.

22. **Child Protection Team:** Multi-disciplinary team of professionals, including social workers, law enforcement officers, medical personnel, and mental health providers, who collaborate to assess, investigate, and intervene in cases of suspected child abuse or neglect.
23. **Child Protective Services (CPS):** Government agencies responsible for investigating reports of child abuse or neglect, providing intervention and support services to ensure the safety and well-being of children, and coordinating with law enforcement and other agencies to protect children from harm.
24. **Child Resilience Factors:** Internal and external factors that promote resilience and positive outcomes in children facing adversity, including supportive relationships, coping skills, problem-solving abilities, self-esteem, and access to resources and opportunities.
25. **Child Rights:** Fundamental entitlements and protections afforded to children based on their status as individuals with unique needs, vulnerabilities, and rights, including the right to life, survival, development, protection, participation, and non-discrimination.
26. **Child Safety Assessment:** Comprehensive evaluation conducted by child welfare workers or multi-disciplinary teams to assess the safety and well-being of children at risk of abuse or neglect, including home visits, interviews, observations, and risk assessments.
27. **Child Safety Plan:** Comprehensive plan developed to ensure the safety and well-being of children at risk of abuse or neglect, including identifying safety concerns, establishing protective measures, accessing support services, and monitoring the child's environment and caregivers.
28. **Child Sexual Abuse:** Sexual activity or exploitation involving a child, including sexual assault, molestation, incest, pornography, or grooming by an adult or older child, resulting in physical, emotional, and psychological harm to the child victim.

29. **Child Trauma:** Psychological and emotional distress experienced by children as a result of exposure to traumatic events or experiences, including neglect, abuse, accidents, natural disasters, or witnessing violence, leading to post-traumatic stress symptoms and impaired functioning.
30. **Child Welfare Policy:** Laws, regulations, and policies governing the protection, care, and support of children, including child protection, foster care, adoption, family preservation, and services for children and families involved with the child welfare system.
31. **Child Welfare System:** System of policies, agencies, and programs designed to protect and promote the well-being of children, including child protective services, foster care, adoption services, and family support programs.
32. **Child Welfare Worker:** Professional or social services provider employed by child welfare agencies or organizations to assess, investigate, and intervene in cases of child abuse or neglect, provide support services to children and families, and ensure compliance with child protection laws and policies.
33. **Community Resources:** Support services, programs, or resources available within a community to assist families and children in need, including food banks, shelters, counseling services, childcare assistance, or parenting classes.
34. **Crisis Intervention:** Immediate response and support provided to individuals or families experiencing a crisis or emergency situation, including child neglect or abuse, to address safety concerns, provide emotional support, and access necessary resources.
35. **Early Intervention:** Prompt identification and provision of services to address developmental delays, disabilities, or risk factors in young children, including screening, assessment, and intervention services to support optimal development and well-being.

36. **Educational Neglect:** Failure to ensure a child's access to appropriate education or educational resources, including school attendance, support for learning disabilities, or educational materials, resulting in academic or developmental delays.
37. **Emotional Neglect:** Failure to meet a child's emotional needs, including affection, attention, and emotional support, leading to impaired psychological development and well-being.
38. **Family Dysfunction:** Disruption or dysfunction within a family unit, including communication breakdown, conflict, substance abuse, or mental health issues, contributing to neglect or mistreatment of children.
39. **Home Visitation Programs:** Supportive services provided to families in their homes by trained professionals or volunteers, including parenting education, child development assessments, and referrals to community resources, to promote positive parenting and child well-being.
40. **Mandatory Reporting:** Legal requirement for certain professionals, including teachers, healthcare providers, social workers, and law enforcement personnel, to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to child protective services or law enforcement authorities.
41. **Medical Neglect:** Failure to provide necessary medical treatment or care for a child's physical or mental health conditions, resulting in harm or risk of harm to the child's health.
42. **Mental Health Issues in Parents:** Mental health conditions or disorders experienced by parents or caregivers, including depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia, impacting their ability to provide adequate care and support for children.

43. **Mental Health Neglect:** Failure to address or provide treatment for a child's mental health needs, including neglecting therapy, medication, or support for mental health conditions, leading to psychological harm or impairment.
44. **Multidisciplinary Team:** Collaborative approach involving professionals from various disciplines, including social work, psychology, law enforcement, healthcare, education, and child welfare, to assess, investigate, and intervene in cases of child neglect or abuse.
45. **Parental Substance Abuse:** Substance abuse or addiction by a parent or caregiver, including alcohol, drugs, or prescription medications, leading to neglect or mistreatment of children due to impaired caregiving abilities.
46. **Parent-Child Interaction:** Quality of interactions and relationships between parents or caregivers and their children, including communication, bonding, attachment, and positive parenting practices, influencing child development and well-being.
47. **Physical Neglect:** Failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, or necessary medical care to a child, resulting in physical harm or risk of harm.
48. **Poverty and Financial Stress:** Economic hardship or financial instability experienced by families, including limited access to resources, inadequate housing, food insecurity, or inability to afford basic necessities, contributing to neglect or mistreatment of children.
49. **Resilience:** Capacity of individuals, including children, to adapt, cope, and thrive in the face of adversity, including experiences of neglect or abuse, through internal and external protective factors, such as positive relationships, self-regulation skills, and community support.

50. **Risk Factors:** Factors or conditions that increase the likelihood or vulnerability of a child experiencing neglect or abuse, including parental substance abuse, mental health issues, poverty, domestic violence, or social isolation.
51. **Safety Planning:** Development of a structured plan to ensure the safety and well-being of children at risk of neglect or abuse, including identifying potential risks, establishing safety measures, and accessing support services and resources.
52. **Trauma-Informed Care:** Approach to providing services and support that recognizes and responds to the impact of trauma on individuals, including children who have experienced neglect or abuse, emphasizing safety, trust, empowerment, and collaboration.

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