



CHILD WELLBEING GUIDE

To assist health practitioners to identify and summarise concerns about possible child neglect

NEGLECT – the persistent intentional or unintentional failure of the caregiver to meet a child’s basic physical, medical and/or emotional needs; such failure being likely to result in the serious impairment of the child’s health and/or development.

The purpose of this Guide

The use of this Guide, alongside any formal assessment tool, can assist health practitioners to clarify what aspects of a child’s care/lack of care they are concerned about.

Workers may choose to use this Guide openly with parents as a way of facilitating a discussion about what aspects of child care parents are managing well and what areas they may need assistance with, in order to ensure their child’s health, safety and wellbeing.

Consider using this Guide:

1. To track possible neglect over time

Several forms can be completed over the period of time in which the child and family are engaged with the service. This can help the practitioner and the family identify what is improving, what continues to give rise for concern and what areas of support the child and/or family would most benefit from.

2. As additional supportive documentation when reporting child neglect to Department for Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS)

Completed forms can be attached to the CPFS Child Protection Concern Referral Form and can be used to highlight:

- The health professional’s knowledge of the key deficits in care for the named child
- The key areas of concern
- Any improvement, and/or deterioration over time

This form is designed as a GUIDE only and should not take the place of any formal assessment tool.

Child Wellbeing Guide

Child's name: _____

DOB: _____

Tick as appropriate	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
HEALTHCARE				
Medical appointments, immunisations etc. are regularly attended				
The child has good dental hygiene				
Any chronic conditions are well managed				
Comments:				
SUPERVISION				
There are clear, clean and tidy areas for the child to play				
No evidence of hazards – fire risks, needles, medicines etc				
Parental supervision is generally sufficient to ensure safety/ prevent accidents				
Comments:				
APPEARANCE				
There is evidence of good hygiene - child is regularly bathed, sores covered etc.				
The child's overall skin and hair condition is good				
The child makes and maintains eye contact appropriate to their developmental age and culture				
Comments:				
FOOD AND CLOTHING				
Child appears well-nourished and is within acceptable limits for height/weight according to age and any disability				
Child has correctly fitting clothes and shoes appropriate to climate and living conditions				
Nappies/underwear/clothing are clean and changed as necessary				
Comments:				

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Tick as appropriate	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS				
Family home provides a safe environment e.g. clean and tidy enough; no hazards for crawling babies, toddlers etc. a functioning kitchen, no animal faeces or urine inside, smoke-free,.				
Child has a bed with clean mattress and appropriate bedding				
Parents practice safest sleeping options for infants				
Comments:				
DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION				
The child is developing communication skills according to their age and any disability				
The child's general development is that expected of a similar child				
Caregiver ensures consistent attendance at kindy, pre-school, school				
Comments:				
ATTACHMENT AND EMOTIONAL CARE				
Appropriate level of stimulation by carers and their environment e.g. carers engage in interactive play, read to younger children, allow safe exploration etc.				
Carer shows appropriate responses to the child's emotional state; e.g. matches their response to the child's emotional state, soothes as necessary, responses to the child's behaviours are appropriate and consistent. etc. ,				
Child appears emotionally well-connected to caregivers e.g. seeks caregiver out for support when upset/hurt/has something to share, does not appear fearful/avoidant of caregiver etc.				
Comments:				

Overall remarks:

Signature:

Contact No:

Date:

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