

Appendix 2

Neglected Children: Issues and Dilemmas

Scale for Assessing Neglectful Parenting

Case No: _____

Family name(s): _____

Family
(note ages and sex of children)

composition: _____

Family involved in neglect project: Yes/No

Date completed: _____

Completed by: _____

- 0 = Definitely untrue or never true
- 1 = Partially true or occasionally true
- 2 = Largely true or often true
- 3 = Definitely true or always true
- NK = Not known
- A. Food and Eating Habits
- B. Health and Hygiene
- C. Warmth/Clothing
- D. Safety and Supervision
- E. Emotional Neglect
- F. School

A: Food and eating habits

1. There is insufficient food in the house to meet the children's needs for the next 12 hours.

0

1

2

3

NK

2. Babies and toddlers are given food that is inappropriate for their age.

0

1

2

3

NK

3. There are inadequate working facilities that permit meals (e.g. cooker/stove).

0

1

2

3

NK

4. There is inadequate cooking equipment (e.g. pots and pans).

0

1

2

3

NK

5. The nutritional content of meals does not appear to be adequate.

0

1

2

3

NK

6. Children do not have even one prepared meal per day (including school meals).

0

1

2

3

NK

7. Feeding methods for young children and babies appear to be unhygienic (e.g. unsatisfactory/dirty bottles).

0

1

2

3

NK

8. There is no use of fresh vegetables or fruit.

0

1

2

3

NK

9. There is excessive use of sugar/sweets/crisps/chips.	0	1	2	3	NK
10. There is adequate seating for children/toddlers to have meals at the table.	0	1	2	3	NK
11. Parents appear to feed babies without holding them.	0	1	2	3	NK
12. Children have been observed to eat excessively /ravenously.	0	1	2	3	NK
13. Children have been reported to eat excessively /ravenously.	0	1	2	3	NK
14. Children appear to be extremely hungry.	0	1	2	3	NK
15. Children are reported as extremely hungry.	0	1	2	3	NK
B: Health and hygiene					
16. The children look dirty.	0	1	2	3	NK
17. The parents look dirty.	0	1	2	3	NK
18. The home lacks showing/bathing facilities which work and are available for washing.	0	1	2	3	NK

19. The bath and basin are dirty.	0	1	2	3	NK
20. The family lacks a toilet which works.	0	1	2	3	NK
21. The lavatories and toilets are dirty.	0	1	2	3	NK
22. The kitchen is dirty.	0	1	2	3	NK
23. The kitchen equipment is unwashed.	0	1	2	3	NK
24. Children regularly sleep in the same bed as parents.	0	1	2	3	NK
25. Is there a place for keeping children's clothes together (e.g. cupboard / drawers / basket / bag)?	0	1	2	3	NK
26. Conditions in the parents' bedroom are much superior to those in the children's bedrooms.	0	1	2	3	NK
27. Scraps of food are left on the living room/dining room floor.	0	1	2	3	NK
28. Family members suffer from head lice infections.	0	1	2	3	NK
29. Family members have chronic scabies.	0	1	2	3	NK

30. There is evidence of nappy rash that is not being treated.	0	1	2	3	NK
31. Children who soil/wet are left in dirty/wet clothing or a dirty/wet bed.	0	1	2	3	NK
32. Parents have failed to report medical problems in their children (e.g. running ears, squints, recurring diarrhoea).	0	1	2	3	NK
33. Parents appear to be unaware the child has a need for dental treatment.	0	1	2	3	NK
34. The house has a bad smell.	0	1	2	3	NK
35. The furniture is damp.	0	1	2	3	NK
36. The garden is full of dangerous rubbish.	0	1	2	3	NK
C: Warmth/clothing					
37. The family lacks a heating system which works.	0	1	2	3	NK
38. The outside doors are badly fitted/do not work.	0	1	2	3	NK

39. Inside doors are left unfitted and damaged.	0	1	2	3	NK
40. Windows have been left unglazed/uncovered.	0	1	2	3	NK
41. There is no covering on the floor.	0	1	2	3	NK
42. The children have no adequate bedding (i.e. mattress and sheets, enough blankets or duvets).	0	1	2	3	NK
43. The children do not have clothes appropriate for the weather.	0	1	2	3	NK
44. The children have no waterproof coats.	0	1	2	3	NK
45. The children's shoes let in water.	0	1	2	3	NK
46. Children lack at least one set of a clean change of clothes.	0	1	2	3	NK
47. The children sleep in their day clothes.	0	1	2	3	NK
48. The bedroom window lacks curtains/blinds.	0	1	2	3	NK
49. The curtains are left closed all day.	0	1	2	3	NK

50. The children have clothes that do not fit them.	0	1	2	3	NK
51. There are insufficient nappies for all babies and toddlers who need them.	0	1	2	3	NK
52. The children's clothes smell.	0	1	2	3	NK
53. There are large holes or tears or several missing buttons/fasteners on the children's clothes.	0	1	2	3	NK
54. The children's clothes are really dirty.	0	1	2	3	NK
55. The children lack their own personal clothes.	0	1	2	3	NK
D: Safety and supervision					
56. The children are left alone.	0	1	2	3	NK
57. Babysitters are under 14 years of age.	0	1	2	3	NK
58. The parents do not know the babysitters.	0	1	2	3	NK
59. The child(ren) has/have been found wandering outside the house.	0	1	2	3	NK

60. The parents do not know where young children are when they go out to play.	0	1	2	3	NK
61. The children do not know where the parents are.	0	1	2	3	NK
62. The parents cannot state the limits of the children's play area.	0	1	2	3	NK
63. The parents allow young children to cross busy roads on their own.	0	1	2	3	NK
64. For toddlers under 5 there is no safety gate which is in regular use.	0	1	2	3	NK
65. If open or electric fires are used there is no fireguard.	0	1	2	3	NK
66. The children have frequent accidents involving injuries.	0	1	2	3	NK
67. Windows can easily be opened by small children.	0	1	2	3	NK
68. Outside doors cannot be locked.	0	1	2	3	NK
69. Children are left in unenclosed gardens/yards.	0	1	2	3	NK

70. Dangerous substances are placed within young children's reach.	0	1	2	3	NK
71. Children are locked out of the house.	0	1	2	3	NK
E: Emotional Neglect					
72. Parents hardly spend any regular time with their children.	0	1	2	3	NK
73. Parents do not play with their children.	0	1	2	3	NK
74. There are no regular bed times for children.	0	1	2	3	NK
75. Under 8's are still up at 10pm.	0	1	2	3	NK
76. When children are distressed parents do not comfort them.	0	1	2	3	NK
77. The parents have very unrealistic expectations of their children's abilities.	0	1	2	3	NK
78. The parents expect their children to look after themselves.	0	1	2	3	NK

79. The parents are unable to control small children.	0	1	2	3	NK
80. The parents respond insensitively to their children's needs.	0	1	2	3	NK
81. The children are indiscriminately affectionate to strangers.	0	1	2	3	NK
82. The children do not turn appropriately to other adults.	0	1	2	3	NK
83. The parents have at best only a dim awareness of their children and their needs.	0	1	2	3	NK
84. The parents' response to their children's behaviour appears to be very unpredictable.	0	1	2	3	NK
85. Parents largely leave the children to their own devices.	0	1	2	3	NK
86. Parents are violent in front of their children.	0	1	2	3	NK
87. Parents frequently argue in front of their children.	0	1	2	3	NK
88. Parents frequently argue when their children are in the house, but out of sight.	0	1	2	3	NK

89. The parents have made suicide attempts in front of their children.	0	1	2	3	NK
90. The parents have made suicide threats in front of their children.	0	1	2	3	NK
91. The parents have threatened to leave the children or put them in care if they do not behave.	0	1	2	3	NK
92. Frequently no action is taken to check bad and/or dangerous behaviour.	0	1	2	3	NK
93. Children are not encouraged to care for their toys.	0	1	2	3	NK
94. The parents appear to set no limit to TV watching.	0	1	2	3	NK
95. A parent fails to show pride in their child's achievement.	0	1	2	3	NK
96. Mother/father cannot show physical affection to the child/children.	0	1	2	3	NK
97. Children are not encouraged to paint or draw or play constructively.	0	1	2	3	NK
98. Children have no books of their own.	0	1	2	3	NK

99. Children have no age-appropriate toys, dolls.	0	1	2	3	NK
100. Parents do not teach their children the difference between right or wrong in a manner appropriate to their level of development.	0	1	2	3	NK
101. The parents buy themselves expensive clothes, jewels, consumer goods, but provide hardly anything for the children.	0	1	2	3	NK
102. Bullying or cruelty by older siblings to younger siblings go unchecked.	0	1	2	3	NK
103. Children are locked in bedrooms, cupboards.	0	1	2	3	NK
104. Dangerous animals are left insufficiently controlled.	0	1	2	3	NK
105. The animals appear better fed and cared for than the children.	0	1	2	3	NK
106. Spiteful or cruel play with pets goes unchecked.	0	1	2	3	NK
107. The house or garden/yard is frequently fouled with animal faeces/urine.	0	1	2	3	NK

F: SCHOOL					
108. Parents regularly withdraw their children from school/nursery.	0	1	2	3	NK
109. Children regularly turn up late for school/nursery.	0	1	2	3	NK
110. School age children are regularly not provided with an adequate lunch or dinner money.	0	1	2	3	NK
111. Infant/nursery children make their own way to school/nursery by themselves.	0	1	2	3	NK
Do not score this section	Yes	No			
A Parents report feeding difficulties with a child.					
B Feeding problems are observed in relation to a particular child.					