

What a child needs...

Guidance

This tool is provided to help professionals explore neglect with families in an accessible format.

This PDF is accessible on laptops/devices or it can be printed.

Overview sheet (page 2):

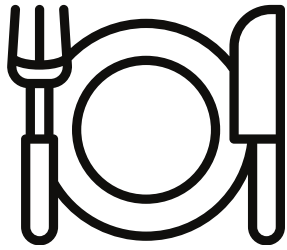
- Provides an overview of key themes when exploring neglect of children.
- There is the potential to print and cut them out to make into cards. A blank card is offered to prompt exploration of additional themes.

Theme sheets (pages 3–14):

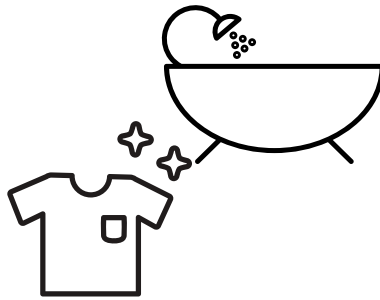
- Theme sheets provide pick and mix examples you can use to guide discussions with families. They do not provide an exhaustive list.
- Not all themes will be relevant to all families. They will need to be adapted depending on the audience, age, needs of the child and focus of discussions.
- Wording may not be accessible. Ambiguous terms and assumed knowledge needs to be fully explored with families to ensure there is a shared understanding.
- Where possible language is strength based and avoids a deficit led approach.
- A blank sheet is provided to support development of additional themes and/or active participation of families in discussions.



What a child needs...



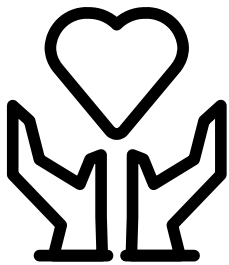
Food



Hygiene



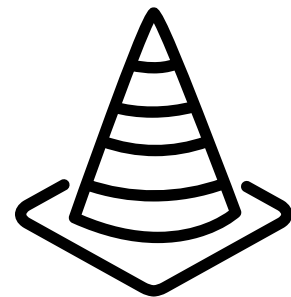
Housing



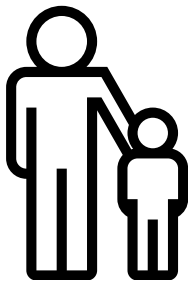
Warmth,
Care & Love



Health
Care



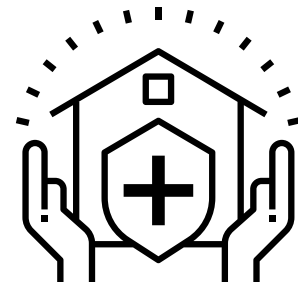
Boundaries



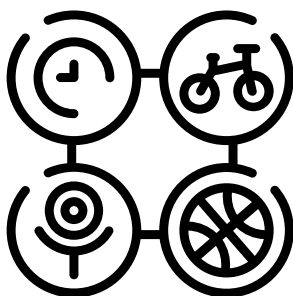
Supervision



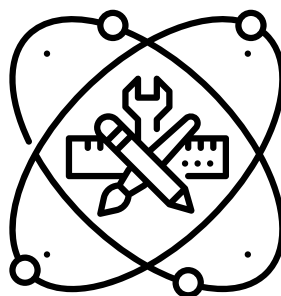
Positive
Values



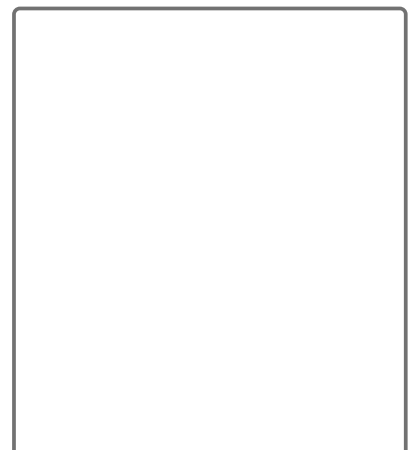
Safety



Play &
Activities



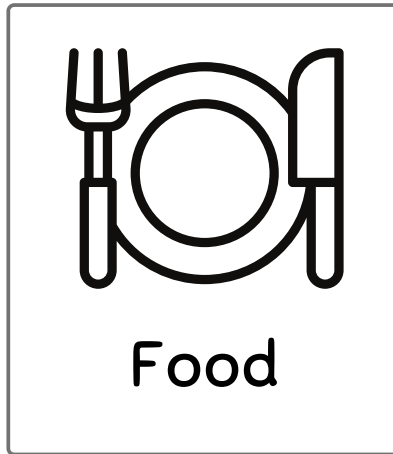
Education



What a child needs...

...enough food – so they are not hungry or overfed.

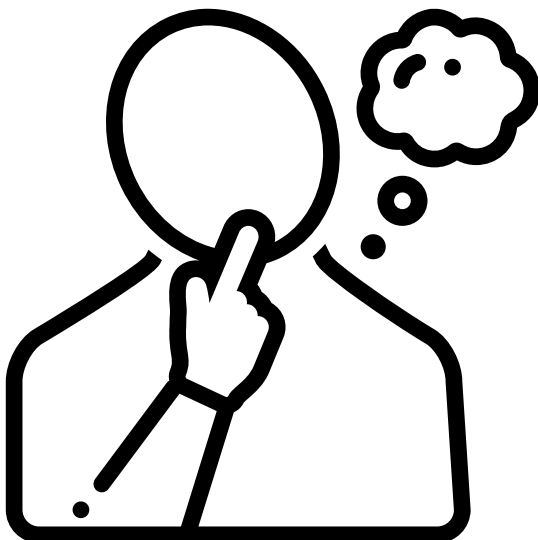
...meal routines as a family.



...special dietary needs met.

...good quality food – not all sweets or 'junk' foods.

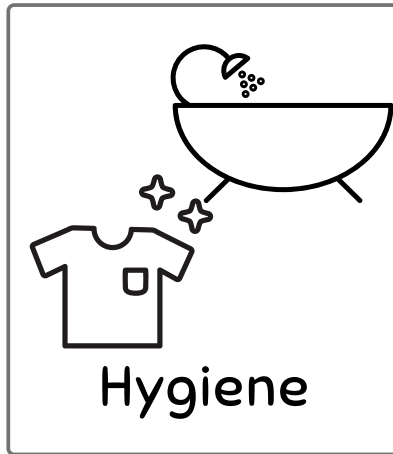
...parents/carers who know food is important.



What a child needs...

... to wash daily with parent/
carer support and
encouragement.

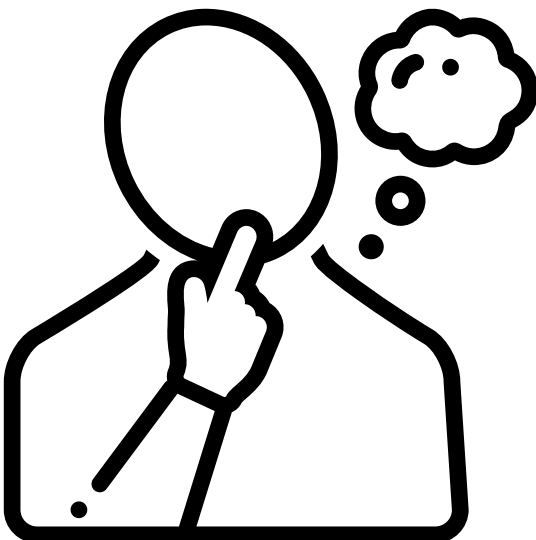
...encouragement to
brush teeth.



...clean clothes.

...parents/carers to take an
interest in their appearance.

...skin conditions to be treated
e.g. nappy rash.



What a child needs...

...stability in home conditions e.g. in those that live at the address.

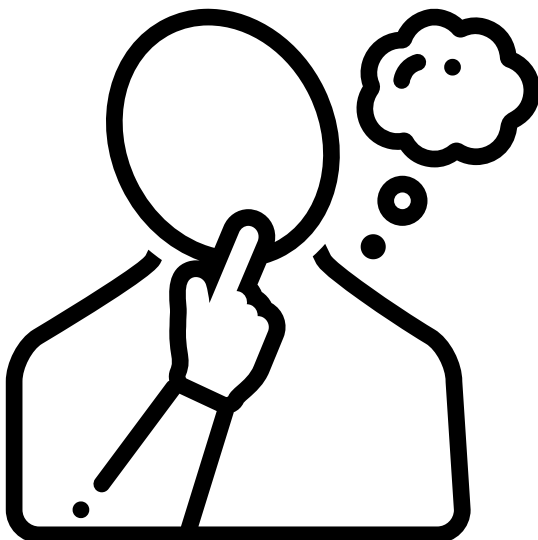
...hygienic facilities in a reasonable state of repair.

...a stable home without unnecessary moves



...animals to be well cared for and who don't pose a risk to them.

... a home that provides essentials e.g. for cooking, heating, washing and sleeping.



What a child needs...

... parent/carers who are concerned and interested in their welfare and needs.

... to make a contribution to some household tasks that are age and stage appropriate.

... understanding of their needs and best interests.



... to be left in the care of 'suitable' adults.

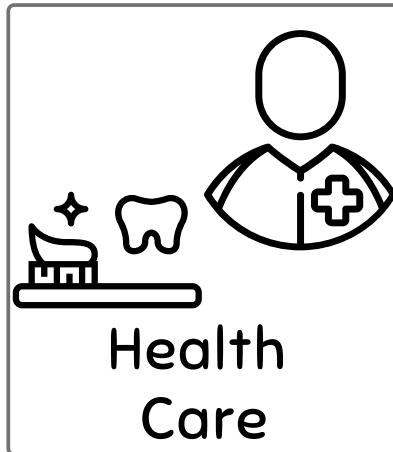
... adults/carers who are consistently responsive to their needs.



What a child needs...

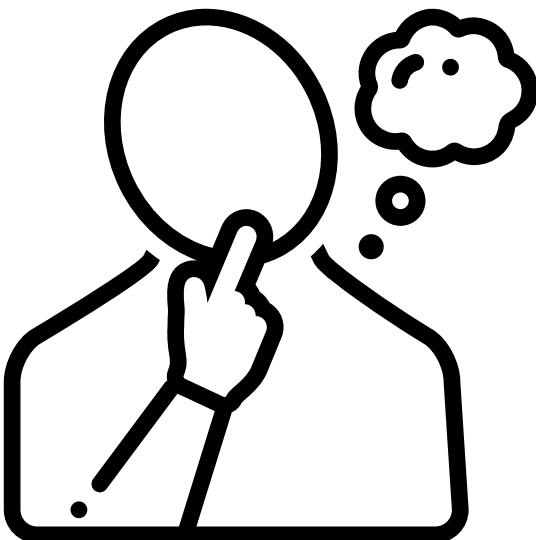
...support to complete any prescribed medications or treatments.

...parent/carers who seek and accept medical support/advice when required.



...encouragement to brush teeth.

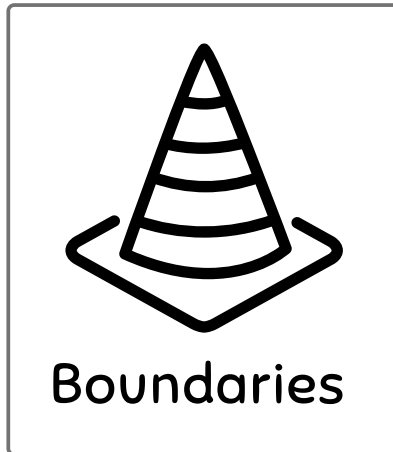
...support to attend health appointments, including preventive care e.g. dental check-ups and immunisations.



What a child needs...

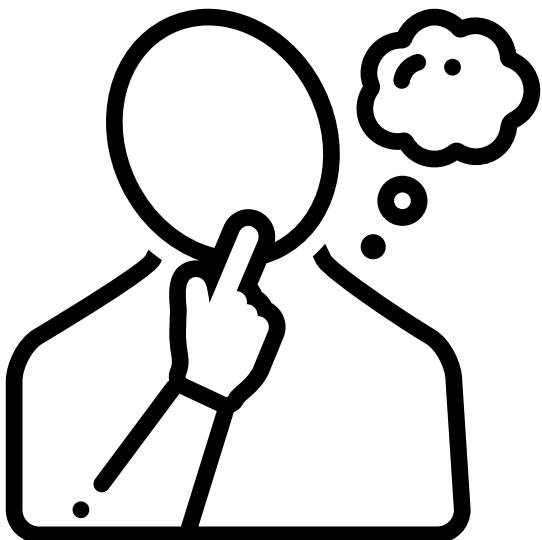
... protection and guidance on safe relationships and forms of risky behaviour.

... appropriate discipline and sanctions. No physical chastisement or other forms of harsh discipline.



... consistency

... their whereabouts to be known. Including parents/carers taking action when they don't return home at a reasonable time or at all.

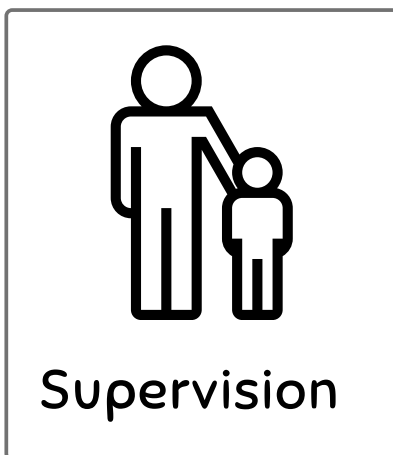


What a child needs...

... monitoring, controls and guidance on the use of technology including social media.

... parents/carers who will intervene when there is imminent danger.

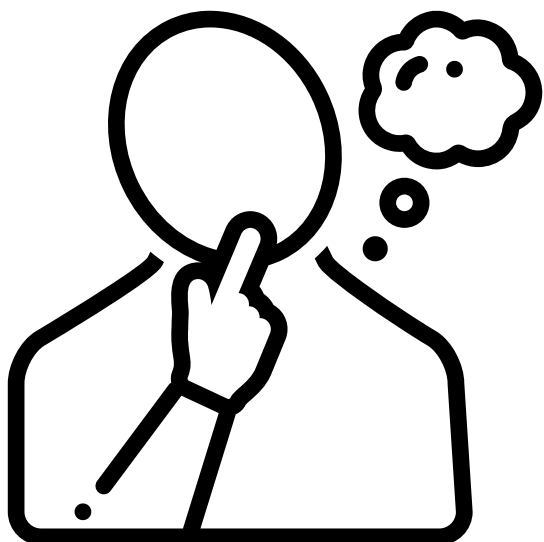
... to be attended and responded to.



... to be left in the care of 'suitable' adults.

... appropriate supervision in line with age and level of development.

... their whereabouts to be known. Including parents/carers taking action when they don't return home at a reasonable time or at all.



What a child needs...

... parents/carers that encourages positive values, e.g. that anti social behaviour is not acceptable.

... parents/carers who don't misuse alcohol or drugs and who avoid smoking in the house.



... parents/carers who provide advice and support.

... parent/carers who don't discuss the impact of their feelings of low mood/ depression in front of them or hold child responsible for them.



What a child needs...

... parents/carers who are aware of safety issues, seek advice and use safety equipment.

... parents/carers who do not argue aggressively or engage in domestic abuse and understand the impact on the child.

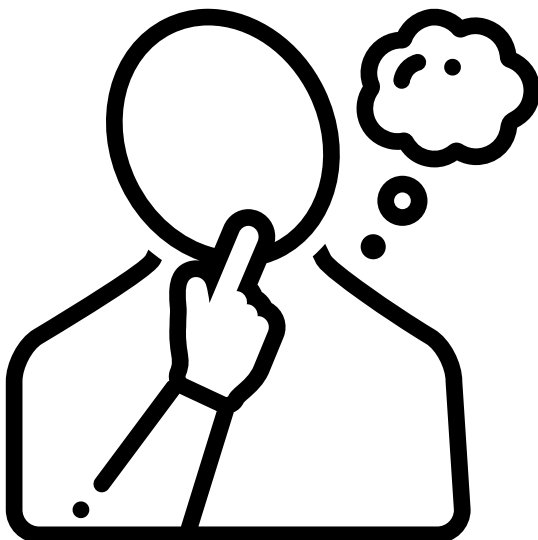
... Consistent boundaries



... taught traffic safety skills.

... safe handling and supervision.

... monitoring, controls and guidance on the use of technology including social media.



... protection and guidance on forms of risky behaviour.



What a child needs...

... friendships which are supported and encouraged by parents/carers.

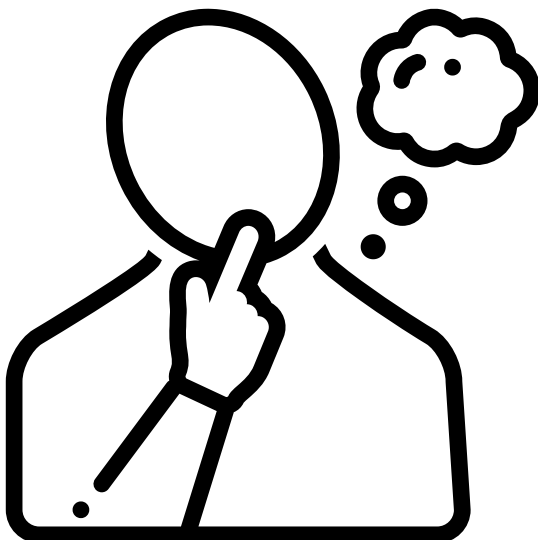
... opportunities for activities/ outings.

... good levels of stimulation.



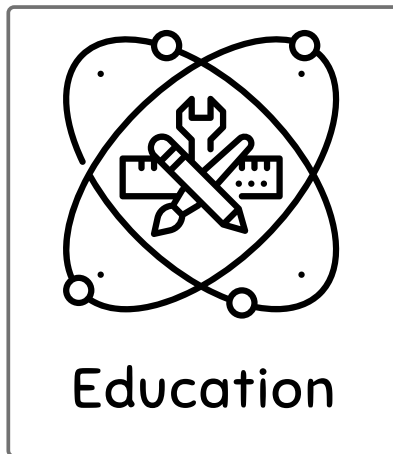
... toys/ games appropriate to age and development.

... parents/carers who understand and address any bullying behaviours.



What a child needs...

... parents/carers who value school and other educational opportunities.



... encouragement and support with attendance.

... parents/carers who take an active interest in schooling and homework.



What a child needs...

