



Key Indicators – Emotional neglect

	UNIVERSAL/EARLY INTERVENTION	EARLY HELP	TARGETED EARLY HELP	CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE
Characteristics of parents / carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot cope with children's demands • Parents may feel awkward/ tense when alone with their children • Inconsistent responses to child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to connect emotionally with child • Lots of rules • Lack of attachment to child • Unrealistic expectations in line with child's development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dismissive/punitive response to child's needs • Poor attachment to child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental responses lack empathy • Not emotionally available to child • No attachment to child
Characteristics of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over friendly with strangers Over reliance on social media to interact • No risk of Child Exploitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frightened/unhappy/ anxious/low self-esteem • Know their role in family • Attention seeking • Low risk of Child Exploitation (CERAF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawn/isolated • Fear intimacy and dependency • Self-reliant • Difficulties in regulating emotions • Very poor self-esteem Medium risk of Child Exploitation (CERAF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precocious • Unresponsive/no crying • Oversexualised behaviour • Self-harm/ self-injurious behaviours • High risk of Child Exploitation (CERAF)
What professionals notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignore advice • Children spend a lot of time on-line • Lack of engagement with universal services • Materially advantaged • Child not included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid contact • Missed appointments • Child learns to block expressions • Child 'shut down' • Risky behaviour on-line Material advantages can 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deride professionals • Children unavailable • Children appear overly resilient • Poor social relationships due to isolation • Scapegoated child 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May seek help with a child who needs to be 'cured' • Fabricated illness • Parents seeking a diagnosis/ label for child



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child always immaculately clean• Child and family isolated in community• Pattern of re-referrals to CRT Poor dental hygiene	<p>mask the lack of emotional warmth and connection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pattern of re-referrals to CRT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regression in child's behaviour• Pattern of step ups to social care• Severe dental disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pattern of step downs to early help
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