

CLEVELAND COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN

Title:	Definition of Abuse		
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Minor amendments:	Date:		
	Nature of:		

The policy or procedure will be reviewed by the date shown on the front cover sheet, or sooner if a change in legislation, best practice, or other circumstances indicate that this is necessary. If, for whatever reason, the policy or procedure is not reviewed by the date shown, the policy or procedure shall stay in force until formally reviewed.

Definition of Abuse

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse causes harm to a child's person. It may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning or suffocating. It may be done deliberately or recklessly, or be the result of a deliberate failure to prevent injury occurring. It can also occur when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child whom they are looking after.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent or severe failure to meet a child or young person's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a failure to provide adequate food clothing or shelter, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also involve neglect of, or inadequate response to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves a child or young person being forced or coerced into participating in or watching sexual activity. It is not necessary for the child to be aware that the activity is sexual and the apparent consent of the child is irrelevant. The acts may involve physical contact including penetrative or non penetrative acts. They may involve non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse occurs where there is persistent emotional ill treatment or rejection such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's or young person's behaviour and emotional development, resulting in low self worth. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is present in all forms of abuse.