

Physical Abuse - Spot the Risk

RED FLAGS - What to look out for

BRUISING

- Often on the head but may be on ear, neck or soft areas (stomach, buttocks etc).
- Defensive wounds - often on the forearm, upper arm, back of the leg, hands or feet.
- Clusters of bruises on the upper arm, outside of the thigh or on the body
- A bruised scalp and swollen eyes from hair being pulled violently
- Bruises in the shape of a hand or object
- Bruises with dots of blood under the skin (petechiae).

BITE MARKS

- Usually oval or circular in shape
- Visible wounds, indentations or bruising from individual teeth

FRACTURES/BROKEN BONES

- Fractures to the ribs
- Multiple fractures or breaks at different stages of healing.

BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES

- Fear of specific individuals
- Flinching when approached or touched
- Reluctance to get changed in front of others or wearing long sleeves or trousers in hot weather
- Depression or withdrawn behaviour.

BURNS OR SCALDS

- From hot liquids, hot objects, flames, chemicals or electricity
- May be on the hands, back, shoulders or buttocks. Scalds in particular may be on lower limbs, both arms and/or both legs
- A clear edge to the burn or scald
- Burns in the shape of an implement – for example, a circular cigarette burn
- Multiple burns or scalds.



Your next steps:

- Notify the on-site manager or DSL immediately
- Complete a Cause for Concern form



Designated Safeguarding Lead
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