



Management of bruise, bite and suspicious/unexplained mark in children.

Presentation

Bruising which suggests the possibility of Non Accidental Injury (NAI) include:

- Bruising in babies (in arms)
- Bruising in children who are not independently mobile (including disabled)
- Bruises that are seen away from bony prominences
- Bruises around mouth & cheeks, back, abdomen, upper arms, buttocks & ear lobes
- Multiple bruises in clusters
- Multiple bruises of uniform shape
- Bruises that carry an imprint – of an implement or cord
- Bruises with *petechiae* (dots of blood under the skin) around them

Making an 'Assessment'

A mark/bruise/bite should never be interpreted in isolation and must always be assessed in the context of the child's medical and social history, developmental stage and explanation given. Where there is concern and marks are unexplained professionals are advised not to make their own assessment but to seek an assessment from Children's Social Care. If the assessment leads to a strategy meeting then a child protection medical will be arranged via Children's Social Care following the Strategy Meeting

Pre-mobile babies/immobile children

It is recommended that in all cases of bruising and/or suspicious marks in pre-mobile infants/immobile children and all those under six months you:

- Advise parent/carer of your concerns (you can show this flowchart to explain the actions that you must take)

Refer to Children's Social Care;

(research has shown a small bruise on a pre-mobile baby can be a sign of abuse)

- Be alert to single precursor bruises on the face.

It is recommended that in all cases of bruising in pre-cruising infants that you:

- advise parent/carer of your concerns.
- refer to Children's Social care

Mobile children

Be alert to multiple or large facial bruising Does history fit the bruising? - **YES**

Record assessment (as per box above). If no concerns emerge, take no further action. If Neglect issues -Use Graded Care Profile and refer.

If history does not fit;

- Advise parent/carer of your concern and refer to Children's Social Care
- If parent/carer is not present do not contact but refer to Children's Social Care and ascertain the action plan.

Contact your safeguarding lead if in doubt but do not delay if you are unable to make immediate contact

Children's Social Care referral – Luton: 01582 547653 or Central Bedfordshire: 0300 300 8585 or Bedford Borough: 01234 718700 or Out of Hours: 0300 3008123

Clearly state your concerns

Give your contact details and parent/carer contact telephone numbers.

Check plan of action by reflecting back

(expectation is that Social Worker will arrange a child protection medical with Paediatrician. **Bruising in non –mobile children requires urgent assessment, as it can lead to more serious injury and in some instances results in child death.**

In light of research, guidance & learning from serious case review an unexplained bruise/mark/bite must be assessed by a Paediatrician. **Do not refer to a GP.** Advise your Safeguarding lead of your actions.

Follow up referral in writing and email to: initialassessment@luton.gov.uk or cs.accessandreferral@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or multi.agency@bedford.gov.uk

Document all information in your agency records/system with body maps.

Social worker will liaise with the parent/carer as appropriate to ensure an urgent child protection medical is undertaken.