

Audience Groups 2-6 (Working Together 2010)

Methods Audio-visual, small group activity

Preparation

- Audio-visual equipment
- MS2.1/MS2.2 - Working Practice Scenarios (Videos)
Health Visitor in discussion with a Specialist Child Protection Nurse about Kimberley Miller, a baby who is not meeting her developmental milestones.
- MS2.1 and MS2.2 Script (see end of document)
- flip chart or paper, and pens

Links to Common Core

Common Core 2 Child and young person development (knowledge: understand how young babies, children and young people develop). Know about the Child Health Promotion Programme and Common Assessment Framework for Children and Young People (CAF) and, where appropriate, how to use them.

Childhood Neglect: Improving Outcomes for Children

Learning Outcomes

To recognise signs and symptoms of children and young people who are, or may be, neglected.

Process

Show two different versions of Scenario 2 (the script is included in these notes for trainers to refer to).

When working with a mixed discipline group you could consider using some of the other scenarios provided.

First, show the group Version MS2.1 and then divide them into small groups. Ask participants to consider the following questions and to feedback their findings to the group:

1. Does the response from the professional giving advice, support the practitioner to safeguard this child from neglect?
2. If not, why not?

Continued ↘

Time

Total : 45 minutes

further

Neglect and unmet
health needs

G7
1

Process Continued ↘

Then, show Version MS2.2 and repeat the exercise considering the following questions:

1. Does the response from the professional giving advice support the practitioner to safeguard this child from neglect?
2. What approaches were helpful for the worker? For example:
 - Asked relevant questions
 - Allocated sufficient time for discussion
 - Acknowledged serious concern of the worker
 - Summarised worker's concerns
 - Made time to review in the future
 - Made written record
 - Focus on child
 - Prompted worker to find out more information

MS2.1 Script
MS2.2 Script



further

Neglect and unmet
health needs

G7₂

Health Visitor - Hi Kate, can I grab a word with you about a baby that I have some concerns about

Specialist Nurse - Oh hi June, yes go ahead – who is it?

Health Visitor - It's Kimberley Miller – she's 12 months and she lives on the estate, close by with her parents – Claire and Darren.

Specialist Nurse - Ok, what are you concerned about exactly?

Health Visitor - Well, although Kimberley's birth weight was ok, and she is still well within the normal ranges, she is not really hitting developmental milestones.

Specialist Nurse - go on...

Health Visitor - She is only just sitting up and not yet showing any sign of wanting to hold her own weight – she is not pulling herself up with the furniture and her dad says that she crawls but I'm yet to see it... Aside from the physical delays, she doesn't seem to engage with either parent, she seems to be constantly placid - when I do see her that is...on most occasions when I call around I'm told that she is sleeping, but that seems to be a lot for a child of her age – I've tried calling at different times of the day, so there is no obvious daily sleeping pattern.

Specialist Nurse - Are all her records up to date?

Health Visitor - Yes, I am worried about her so I always make sure of that just in case

anyone else has to pick things up when I'm not here.

Specialist Nurse - Are all her immunisations up to date?

Health Visitor - Yes, they are...but that's only because I made repeat appointments after the family missed the scheduled appointments – I really had to put pressure on to get them to clinic.

Specialist Nurse - but they are done now?

Health Visitor - Yes...one other thing though...Claire seems very down at times, and I've noticed parallel bruising on the tops of her arms. I asked her about them but she just looked embarrassed and changed the subject...when Darren is around, there is a very tense atmosphere in the house – Claire looks nervous and hardly speaks when he's there...I can't say for sure, but I am worried that there may be some domestic violence and that may be having an influence on Kimberley's development.

Specialist Nurse - Well without Claire actually telling you so, you may be putting 2 and 2 together and making 5!

Health Visitor - yes but...

Specialist Nurse - Look, it is our job to make sure Kimberley's health needs are met, and by the sound of it, although she is bit of a late developer, all in all there is nothing of massive concern...

Health Visitor - Yes, I take your point...

Specialist Nurse - Ok, continue to keep an eye on Kimberley and let me know if she misses any

of her future assessments or immunisations...keep her records fully up to date, just as you are doing and make sure that they have all the leaflets – healthy eating, stimulation for toddlers etc. You could also give the parents the times of the parent and toddler group that runs in the Health Centre...but I don't suppose that they will come will they?

Health Visitor - Unlikely...

Specialist Nurse - There is not much more you can do – just keep an eye out and let me know if things deteriorate...

Health Visitor - Hi Kate, can I catch a word with you about a baby that I have some concerns about

Specialist Nurse - Yes go ahead – who is it?

Health Visitor - It's Kimberley Miller – she's 12 months and she lives on the estate, close by with her parents – Claire and Darren.

Specialist Nurse - Ok, what are you concerned about exactly?

Health Visitor - Well, Kimberley's birth weight was ok, and she is still well within the normal ranges, but she is not really hitting developmental milestones.

Specialist Nurse - Go on...

Health Visitor - She is only just sitting up and not yet showing any sign of wanting to hold her own weight – she is not pulling herself up with the furniture and her dad says that she crawls but I'm yet to see it...

Specialist Nurse - How does she present, is she a contented baby?

Health Visitor - Well, aside from the physical delays, she doesn't seem to engage with either parent, she seems to be constantly placid - when I do see her that is...on most occasions when I call around I'm told that she is sleeping, but that seems to be a lot for a child of her age – I've tried calling at different times of the day, so there is no obvious daily sleeping pattern.

Specialist Nurse - When they do bring her downstairs, does she appear like she has been sleeping?

Health Visitor - No, that is the issue, I suspect that she is left alone upstairs in the cot without stimulation.

Specialist Nurse - So tell me a bit more about her interactions with parents, is there any eye contact? Does she look to Claire or Darren for reassurance or approval?

Health Visitor - No, that is part of the worry, there is very little acknowledgement either way and if you smile at Kimberley, she doesn't react at all...

Specialist Nurse - That is a real worry...we need to monitor her very closely...So what do you think is at the root of this? Is it that the parents don't understand Kimberley's developmental needs, or is there something more concerning going on here that we need to know about?

Health Visitor - Not sure, but Claire seems very down at times, and I've noticed parallel bruising on the tops of her arms. I asked her about them but she just looked embarrassed and changed the subject...when Darren is around, there is a very tense atmosphere in the house – Claire looks nervous and hardly speaks when he's there...

Specialist Nurse - Have you tried talking to Claire when Darren is not there? Could you try building up a bit of trust with her so that she feels confident to speak to you about this?

Health Visitor - Yes, I could try but to be honest it is a bit daunting going round to the house, in case Darren is there – I get the impression that he doesn't like me visiting and I don't feel that comfortable.

Specialist Nurse - Have you thought about calling Claire and inviting her in to clinic? We have a few groups running that she might enjoy – maybe choose a week when you are running a session so that she has a familiar face to meet her. There is also the Dad's group – take a leaflet round for Darren, it may be a way of breaking the ice with him...If you feel a bit apprehensive about going around there on your own, go with Mary next time – I know that she is busy too, but it is important that you feel safe.

Health Visitor - Ok I will do that.

Specialist Nurse - I'm glad that you spoke to me about this...we need to monitor Kimberley quite closely, we also need to get the right support in place for the family and consider referring to other agencies if we feel that we can't meet the family's support needs.

Health Visitor - Right, so what's the next step?

Specialist Nurse - I think that it would help to get a more comprehensive picture – I will contact Social Services to see if the family are known – there could be a named worker there for the family, I will find out and if there is I can put you in touch with them. Meanwhile, try to engage with Claire and Darren and make sure they know about the different support services that they can access through the health centre. Try to see more of how they are with Kimberley – physical contact, eye contact, stimulation, reassurance etc.

Health Visitor - Yes, I will go round again this week

Specialist Nurse - Make comprehensive notes from your visits too...can we catch up again at the end of the week and I will let you know what social services have said, and then we can have a discussion about how to proceed next?

Health Visitor - Ok thanks for all this Kate, I feel a lot clearer now about how to handle this.