

# WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

From birth



STOP...

THINK...

## IS IT THE CHILD'S BEHAVIOUR/PLAY?

### Does the child appear:

- to be happy?
- to be safe?

### Are you worried:

- about what the child is saying or how they are saying it?
- about what the child is doing or how they are doing it?

## IS IT THE CHILD'S APPEARANCE?

### Is the child:

- dressed for the weather?
- clean and healthy looking?
- energetic?
- free from discomfort or pain?

## IS IT THE WAY THE CHILD INTERACTS WITH THEIR PARENT/CARER?

### Does the child:

- use the adult as a safe haven?
- look to the adult for reassurance?
- respond willingly to the adult?

### Does the adult:

- listen to the child?
- behave with warmth and affection to the child?
- encourage the child?

## IS IT THE WAY THE ADULT IS BEHAVING?

### Is the adult :

- prioritising the needs of the child above their own?
- aware of the child's safety, well being and feelings?

### Are you worried:

- about the way the adult looks?
- about the way the adult is behaving?
- about what the adult is saying **to** the child?
- about what the adult is saying **about** the child?

ACT

If you are concerned, follow the Warwickshire Safeguarding Board flowchart and share your concerns with your Designated Safeguarding Lead or telephone the MASH on 01926 414144 (Out of Hours: Emergency Duty Team 01926 886922)

This is not an exhaustive list, simply a guide to some unusual behaviours or observations which **MAY** be cause for concern:

	<b>Child's behaviour/ feelings</b>	<b>Child's appearance</b>	<b>Interaction with parent/carer</b>	<b>Adult's behaviour</b>
<b>Baby (0-1 year)</b>	Insecure Frustrated Watchful Wary Rocking Head banging Flinching Fearful Excessive attention seeking	Unexplained sores or bruises Pale Dirty Smelly Not dressed for weather	Frustrated No eye contact No smiles Baby does not seek carer's attention by crying etc Baby apprehensive or mistrustful	Leaves baby to cry for long periods Rough handling of baby Complains about the baby Seems excessively irritated with baby Seems unable to cope with baby Scared of partner/spouse Drug or alcohol misuse
<b>Toddler (2-4)</b>	Sexualised language Very hungry No speech at all Loner – plays alone No distress at being left May not want to go home No experience with sharing Very clingy Aggressive Excessive attention seeking Not able/ willing to explore surroundings	Unexplained sores or bruises Pale Dirty Smelly Not dressed for weather	Hits parent/carer Withdrawn Demand attention/ alternatively may not seek out carer Child trying to care for the adult Lack of boundaries Over controlling boundaries Child apprehensive or mistrustful	Rough handling of toddler Not aware what toddler is doing/where they are Seems excessively irritated with toddler Seems unable to cope with toddler Highly critical of child in front of him/her Scared of partner/spouse Drug or alcohol misuse
<b>School age (4- 11)</b>	Masturbation in public Sexualised language and play Very hungry No friends Difficult to control School avoidance Self harm Limited/ no speech Not interacting with environment Low self esteem	Pale Smelly Dirty Untreated head lice Inadequate clothing Thin/obese Unexplained bruises/ injuries Unexplained possessions (mobile phones, money)	Withdrawn Child acting as carer Over protective parent Angry/ aggressive/ violent Child apprehensive or mistrustful Hostile	Rough handling of child Not aware of activities or whereabouts of child Highly critical of child in front of him/her Worried about their own problems/issues Scared of child Scared of partner/spouse Drug or alcohol misuse
<b>Adolescent (12-18)</b>	Promiscuous Risk taking/ drugs, alcohol Self harm Loner Angry Depressed School avoidance Low self esteem Feelings of inadequacy Out of control	Pale Dirty Smelly Unexplained bruises/ injuries Unexplained possessions (mobile phones, money)	Blaming Aggressive Over protective parent Young person acting as carer Young person apprehensive or mistrustful	Scared of young person Scared of partner/spouse Highly critical of young person in front of him/her Rough handling of young person Inappropriately reliant on young person for everyday issues Drug or alcohol misuse Not aware of activities or whereabouts of young person