

# CHILD NEGLECT IN SCHOOLS AND HOMES

Child Neglect in Schools and Homes

Course: ECE 210 Professor Diaz

Nayeli Rodas

**Abstract**

Child neglect in school and homes continues to be a major problem across the globe. In the United States, millions of children from all socioeconomic backgrounds, across all ages, religions, and cultures are victims. Many die due to the fact that nobody speaks up and children aren't able to develop emotionally and physically. Researchers have consistently shown that exposure to child neglect in homes and schools have a negative effect on current and future educational performance. Also, psychological needs arise in which children have thoughts of killing themselves or their parents have thoughts of killing their own kids. But sometimes we as teachers don't realize that children are asking for help since we don't acknowledge their behavior or the circumstances they are in. We as teachers are supposed to identify abnormal and normal behavior.

### **Introduction**

Child neglect happens at homes and schools without acknowledging it. Imagine anyone harming an innocent child. As disturbing as it can be, 600,000 children per year In the United States are victims. It could either be neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse in where children aren't able to speak up on what's going on at home. However, it's approached from an educational perspective: an abused child seeks someone to share his secrets with and wants to be approached for help. For example we have all gone through a phase in life where our parents used to hit us. We always wanted someone to take care of us and pay attention to our behavior. But nobody would notice you sitting there quietly suffering inside hoping for someone to notice us and ask if we were okay. Days would pass by from the physical abuse you faced and it was like nobody was there. Affecting millions of children to lead to drug usage, alcoholic or even being a serial killer "neglected children are at high risk for growing up to become violent murderers" But most commonly children become suicidal. Let's change this habit. Let's make a community where our children would be safe and protected. Make parents realize that they aren't alone in this and guide them through their parenting journey. Also making teachers be more passionate and affectionate toward their students knowing it can save a life and make a huge difference. The purpose of this paper is to provide literature on the impact of child neglect in schools and home and reunite as one for the well- being of our children.

### **Statement Of the Problem**

The problem of child neglect at homes and schools have been extensively documented such as Hawaii, Illinois, New York and Virginia. since 1874. Child neglect at home starts when a parent fails to not respond to their child's need or desires to abuse their child physically and mentally blaming them for their existence. Once neglected children enter school signs of academic difficulty quickly emerge and antisocial behavior starts to happen in which they no longer trust an adult nor their surroundings. Children all over the world are being affected by this issue. According to Jones, Finklehor, and Halter (2008) states that “In 2006, child protective agencies received an estimated 3.6 million referrals involving the alleged maltreatment of 6 million children”. This shows us that child neglect at home is happening every single day. In the United of America Children aren’t able to communicate or trust an adult due to the fact that they can’t express how they feel. In schools teachers are given a guiding principle on dealing with child neglect, but half of these teachers have been trained or dealt with these situations in which they aren’t emotionally or physically involved. Family and our community is being affected by this. Our family has different parenting skills which involves harsh discipline in which we harm our children and give them fear of never making that mistake again. But some actions are taken too far where we traumatize our own children. Furthermore as a community it should be our responsibility to know if our children are safe. Also as teachers we are their second mom to them. We see them five times a week and they spend most of the time with us. Imagine how many kids would harm themselves, how many dirty secrets there are and the abuse that they face. Mostly the emotions they have inside of them and the anger.

This issue needs to be addressed now. We don't want anymore kids to die and be blamed for their existence when it isn't their fault that we failed them as parents and as teachers.

According to Garbiel Fernandez Teacher she stated that "When Garcia asked Gabriel what had happened, the boy said that his mother had shot him in the face with a BB gun. Garcia also said that, in a separate incident, Gabriel had told her that he'd been beaten with a belt, which resulted in him bleeding." A mistake we all make is never believing our students and never being able to analyze them. If I were a teacher I would take action into my own matter and do what I believed was right. I would have called the police authority and made awareness of the situation going on even and contacted other people for help. But Gabriel died when he was 8 years old and his mother shot him and called the police saying he fell while showering. What could have been different as a teacher and parent. Where was the teacher to help this child when he came to school bruised up? Where was the principle at? Where were the other parents taking note of this matter? But mostly where was our community? The intervention needed to avoid these situations would be analyzing our students more often. Having more teachers visit homes. Start training teachers to be more aware of child neglect in homes and schools. Offering family therapy and making teachers and parents more aware of their surroundings. It could be anyone kids and every life matters. Actions needed to be taken in order to protect those children in need. It would be anyone's child suffering that way. Imagine an innocent child being neglected at home and school suffering by itself. What would you do differently to protect them? But mostly what would the teachers and parents do differently?

## Research Source Summaries

### Research

The effects of child neglect in homes and schools affect problems with brain development in which cognitive delays and impacts learning and behavioral inhibitions and lead to death from a failure to act. In which we would also risk using drugs, alcohol, breaking the law, dangerous/difficult relationships. Children would try to reach out for help but we aren't able to recognize the circumstances they are in.

### Article 1

In the article titled "The Role of Educators in Preventing and Responding to child Abuse and Neglect", Cynthia Crosson talks on how teachers should recognize child neglects at home and school. When a child starts to have a weird behavior or all of a sudden have a certain anger in them. Reporting the situation and analyzing the children to see if he has been abused and how it is affecting him. The article mentions they would provide support to children who need it the most by communicating with them by letting them know you are here for them and listening to them. But mostly trying to comfort them knowing it would be okay. Furthermore, ways to prevent this from happening in the future. By taking them to a family therapy or counseling the child who was traumatized. By acting now and giving it the right call we can avoid all unwanted scenarios to happen and be able to prevent any tragedies from happening to anyone.

### Article 2

In the article titled "Palmdale Abuse case: Uncle Breaks Silence Nearly 7 Years After Gabriel Fernandez's Death." Leanne Suter was a journalist who talked about how mistreated Gabriel was with his parents. He was 8 years old when his mom shot him to death and called the police to say that her son fell down the shower and isn't responding. The community has failed him from never

paying attention and ignoring the signs. In the article it states how the teacher saw him bruised but rarely questioned about it. Where a social worker was being manipulated by the mom. And the security guard who just looked at him but didn't bother to call. He was kept in a box eating cat poop and litter. The intervention needed was for his surroundings to be aware of what is going on. For teachers to acknowledge their surroundings. How many more children need to die in order for us to take action. How much dirt do we have to hold?

### **Article 3**

The article titled, "Child Abuse and Neglect in the Home", Kelly Dedel talks about the serious problem of child neglect in homes and school by analyzing local child that had maltreatment problem. In the article it is stated that neglect occurs in homes, typically the child's caretaker or someone related to them. With all the trauma that has been caused their cognitive abilities start to delay and become very hard for children to start understanding and believe that everyone wants to hurt them. Kelly believes that no child should get hurt or mistreated. They don't have a fault in anything where in this world we live with constant fear of who will hurt us and who's the next victim. This article would help us prevent any misleading information and make sure we keep our children safe and have better parenting skills.

**Small Advocacy action:**

One action that I can take to help children with child neglect in homes and schools would be after - school activities such as parent education classes, mentoring programs, and training teachers to become more aware of this situation and their surroundings. By letting know parents and teachers aren't alone in this situation. I would inform parents about their children's academic progress, behavioral reports and mandatory questionnaires for children about their parents and teachers. In fact, these after-school activities would allow me to see the communication and trust. Lastly I would self-advocate because it will be taken by me. I volunteer my time and help better the school and parents relationships towards their children and have a better development socially, emotionally, and physically.

**Large Advocacy Action:**

The large action that I would take is asking a local government like Cuomo. To distribute a resource guide for parents who are having a hard time in parenting and create a website for parents struggling. As a single mother, foster child, adoptive or even married, raising a child isn't easy. Everyone has a different way to discipline children but sometimes we take it to the extreme where our stress level and anger lead us to do something we don't want to do and end up harming our child physically and emotionally damaging them. We will distribute booklets on "How to Protect your Children from Child Abuse: A Parents Guide". Also "Time Out Teddy" to insight positive and effective child rearing skills. Furthermore, make a website to offer a variety of parenting publications. We aren't alone in this; we are humans that make mistakes and want to learn to be a better person. And we as teachers should make a difference in our world and make it a safe place and environment for our children.



Another action I would take is Hold a Blue Ribbon Campaign involving all the community. In 1989 Bonnie W. Finnet of Vigina told people the tragic story of the abuse her grandchild had and resulted in death. And choose the color blue to remind herself of the bruised body. This would create and spread awareness all over schools, communities and homes. We will even find new and innovative ways to support families who are in desperate need of help and children that need to be saved. Our advocacy plan is to help everyone in need. Make teachers, family, and our community aware of this situation that has been happening. We don't want to fail Garbiel Fernandez nor have a situation similar in which his teachers, social services, community and even the police failed him. Using the Blue Ribbon Campaign would help children like Garbiel, Anthony and Emily have their justice and never let a child be abused or neglected anymore.

### **Commentary**

Child neglect at home and school is a very meaningful topic that I would advocate for. Gabriel Fernandez was the first person that came to my mind when we had to choose an advocacy. It reminded me of when his teacher didn't pay attention to his appearance and random behavior that he had. Later on died and nobody did anything to prevent it. Seeing a child with no teeth, bruised up, scars and cigarette stains all over his body and nobody paying attention to it. This issue was personally meaningful to me since I was a victim . My dad would beat me and hit me with the belt. I would cover my bruises with long sleeve shirts and pants. I was sexually abused and nobody knew how I felt. As much as I tried to look for help and suicidal thoughts came to my head I tried better. My teachers , parents nor community didn't help me when I suffered and I know how it feels to be unwanted and end it already. This topic impacted me as an early childhood educator since I experienced it myself. No child should be left behind and no child should be neglected at homes and schools. Every child deserves someone to care about them and feel safe. We should be aware of our students' actions and behavior. It could save a million lives instead of ending one who was in sorrow.

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