

# CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

## BRIEF INTERVENTION

1. Identify: take a thorough history if high risk &/or there are signs/symptoms suggestive of abuse.
2. Provide emotional support for identified/suspected victims.
3. Assess risk (including co-occurrence of partner abuse).
4. Safety planning and referral.
  - *If immediate safety concerns call Police and refer to CYFS.*
5. Document current/past injuries.
6. Referral to CYFS or specialist social service agency.

### **Consultation is important:**

*Consult with staff trained in child protection eg. Social Worker, Senior Nurse, Paediatrician or CYFS.*

### **Seek peer-support/supervision for self.**

# CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

## 1. IDENTIFY

Take a thorough history for child abuse and neglect if concerns exist or if abuse is disclosed.

### Red Flags:

- Uncorroborated history, eg. discrepancy between: history/injury history/developmental age
- Inappropriate parent response
- History of CYFS engagement
- Delay in seeking medical advice
- History of repeated trauma
- Varying/changing history.

### Assessing Questions:

*Who makes the rules at home?*

*What happens if the rules are broken?*

*Do you ever fear for your child's safety?*

# **CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT PRELIMINARY RISK ASSESSMENT**

1. Family Violence.
2. Parent indifferent, intolerant – views child as particularly troublesome.
3. Severe social stress.
4. Severe isolation and lack of support.
5. Parents abused as children.
6. Alcohol and drug use.
7. Mental illness including post-natal depression.
8. Parent very young.
9. Frequent changes of address, more than 2 over the last year.
10. At risk family actively avoids family support agencies.

# **CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT RISK ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL**

- Nature of abuse and/or neglect.
- Trend of abuse: constant, increasing or decreasing.
- Details of: how, where, when and who saw it happen.
- Are adequate protectors available, eg. adult (family/other) who will keep the child safe.
- Safety of sibling(s) in household.
- Child's ability to protect self, eg. baby/young child.
- Other agencies involved with the family.

## **Consultation/Support:**

Paediatrician, Senior clinician in child protection, or CYFS.

## **Referral:**

CYFS (0508 326 459) or Police (111)