

Safeguarding

Domestic abuse



What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. It can seriously harm children and young people and witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse. It's important to remember domestic abuse:

- can happen inside and outside the home
- can happen over the phone, on the internet and on social networking sites
- can happen in any relationship and can continue even after the relationship has ended
- both men and women can be abused or abusers.

Types of domestic abuse

Domestic abuse can be emotional, physical, sexual, financial or psychological, such as:

- kicking, hitting, punching or cutting
- rape (including in a relationship)
- controlling someone's finances by withholding money or stopping someone earning

- controlling behaviour, like telling someone where they can go and what they can wear
- not letting someone leave the house
- reading emails, text messages or letters
- threatening to kill someone or harm them
- threatening to another family member or pet

Task

Use the information above to introduce the topic of domestic abuse. Hold a discussion with your team. Then pose the following questions,

What are the signs that a child may be witnessing domestic abuse at home?

What are the effects of domestic abuse on young children?

What can you do to support a child that is witnessing domestic violence?

What local and national resources can you signpost in your setting?

Websites to support

Domestic violence resources and key messages-

[Domestic Violence resources for practitioners May 2020 \(lcitylscb.org\)](https://www.lcitylscb.org/media/1698/domestic-violence-resources-for-practitioners-may-2020.pdf)

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WRONG - A guide for a friend or family member who thinks they are victim to abuse [UAVA friends and family booklet \(lcitylscb.org\)](https://www.lcitylscb.org/media/1699/friends-family-booklet-april-2020-final.pdf)

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NSPCC [Podcast: why domestic abuse is a child protection issue | NSPCC Learning](#)

Local safeguarding children's partnership board: [LSCPB | Domestic and Sexual Violence/Abuse \(lcitylscb.org\)](#)