

# Lynne Townend Playpals Childcare Centre (Neglect Champion)

## Lynne's experience of using the Graded Care Profile

I have been a DSL for many years and have always struggled with the subjectiveness of NEGLECT. One person's idea of acceptable routines might be below the expectation of other families- but is it neglectful? I quote the example of the family who bathes their children once per week because of the expense of putting the immersion-heater on. (This is something most of us can relate to at the moment with the high energy prices). To some people this is not good cleanliness but in fact the children were clean and washed in clean & suitable clothing every day.

An additional factor had always been around different family's standards in nutrition & sleep often relating to different cultural or religious practices. As a white, middle-class, middle-aged woman- I bring my childhood experiences to these situations, which often differed to those of my colleagues.

The Graded Care -profile, has been an absolute game changer. I completed the training in June 2022. Since then, I have only once been required to use the document in a Child Protection Case.

However, as a Team at Playpals we refer to the material regularly. I use it as a TRAINING TOOL & REFERENCE MATERIAL.

Recently, an apprentice raised a concern about a child in her room. She was concerned that the child was arriving at Nursery wearing their sleep/night-time nappy from the previous night. They never bought a coat in the winter weather.

We looked at the Graded Care Profile 2 section on Physical care (AREA A) together. I asked her about other areas of the child's care: such as Nutrition & health before looking at the clothing & hygiene. She was able to see that there were no areas of concern in the other areas, most statements were MET, occasionally ALWAYS MET. We then discussed with the Key Person who spoke to the parents. The apprentice was able to see the broader picture with regards to NEGLECT.

The setting SENCo and I referred to the statements, with regards to family where the parent has additional needs too. We monitor the situation in the areas we can judge (We don't visit the home and only see a little of the parent/child interaction at the start & end of the day) It helps us to identify when we might need to give additional support and gives us a clear way forward from "met most of the time" to "MET".

There are so many times that we question - Is this neglectful? Is there a problem here? Do we need to delve further? Can we offer a little support? What are we considering NEGLECTFUL and what is acceptable?

**This Graded Care Profile is easily accessible, targeted, succinct framework**  
**I cannot recommend it enough!**

As a Neglect Champion, I am happy for you to contact me to raise any questions and to talk things over. We are all busy professionals, but sometimes another professional's ear is all you need.

Find Lynne's and our other neglect champions contact details here  
<https://www.solgrid.org.uk/eyc/resources/safeguarding-and-welfare/>