

Worksheet 2 : Case Studies on child abuse¹

Facilitator Note: Print and cut out each case study to share for discussion.

1. Susan

Susan is a 5-year old child who presents with bruises on her cheek, her upper arm and on her torso. Her mother said she fell down on the stairs, that she is a tomboy and she is always falling down. What do you think?

2. Craig

Craig has arrived at the clinic with bruises on his elbows and a bad scrape on his knee. When you ask what happened, he tells you that he was riding his bike on a busy street where his father had told him not to, he swerved to avoid a car, and he fell off. When you ask how he got hurt, he says it was in the fall. What do you think?

3. Annie

Annie is a 5-year old child and is always dirty. She seems otherwise healthy and is happy around her parents. Is this neglect?

4. Josie

Josie's mother has brought her in after she fell down the steps. Josie's mother says cannot afford the spectacles for her child. Is this neglect?

5. Baby

One of your patients, Baby, is an alcoholic and you know that she has two children aged 8 and 9 years. They are not going to school, but seem otherwise healthy and well cared for and concerned about their mother. Is this neglect?

6. John

You observe some nursery-aged school children playing. One of them, John pulls down his pants to show his privates. He then asks the others to show their parts. When they say no, John insists and starts fighting with them. What do you think? What questions should you ask? Why?

7. Nicky

A 15-year-old girl drinks poison and is She tells you that she does not want to live with her mother. What do you think? What questions should you ask? Why?

8. Mama

There is a mother with two children in your maternity clinic. The children are playing and the mother keeps shouting at them to stop. She also tells the children that they are no good and she is fed up with them. The children continue playing and laughing. What do you think? What would you do? What questions would you ask to find out

¹ Extracted from http://www.vcu.edu/vissta/training/va_teachers/topic1_1.html

