

Presbyterian Counseling Center

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CENTERPOINT

Physical neglect of children can be fairly easily determined. The children who are consistently dirty, hungry, seen wandering the neighborhood at inappropriate hours and who seem to have little supervision may well be physically neglected.

Emotional neglect of a child may be less obvious to an observer and thus more difficult to determine. Emotional neglect takes various forms and its impact can be life long.

Lack of attention is a form of emotional neglect. Certainly no parent can devote all their attention to a child, nor should they, but never showing interest in a child's thoughts, feelings, or activities conveys the message the child is not important.

Withholding affection when a child falls short of parents expectations can make a child feel unworthy and like a failure.

Not allowing children to pursue their own interests or spend time with friends can result in inhibited personality and emotional development.

Work to show interest in your child's thoughts, feeling and activities, let them know you love them even though you may not be happy with their behavior. Nurture them with lots of affection and encouragement and allow them to pursue interests and friendships. This will help them become emotionally healthy individuals. The Presbyterian Counseling Center can help people with parenting concerns. Call 910-452-7370 or visit us at **www.presbyteriancounselingcenter.org**.

Ann C. Thacker, Clinical Director
Professional Counseling... Hope and Healing for All.