

Risk Factors for Abuse and/or Neglect

1. Child Risk Factors

- Premature birth
- Colic
- Physical disabilities
- Developmental disabilities
- Chronic illness
- Emotional/behavioral difficulties
- Unwanted child

2. Abuser's Risk Factors

- Low self esteem
- Depression
- Poor impulse control
- Substance abuse
- Abused as a child
- Teenage parent
- Unrealistic expectations of child's behavior
- Negative view of themselves and children in care
- Punitive child-rearing style

3. Social/Situational Stresses

- Isolation
- Family/domestic violence
- Non-biologically-related male in the home
- Unemployment/financial problems
- Single parenthood

4. Triggering Situations

- Crying baby
- Child's misbehavior
- Discipline gone awry
- Argument, adult-adult conflict
- Overly zealous toilet learning/training