

Main Office

1034 Sixth Avenue North
Naples, Florida 34102

941-263-8383

Fax: 941-263-7931

Hours: 8 AM to 5 PM, Mon-Fri
On call 24 hr/day

Satellite Office

Marion E. Fether Medical Center
1454 Madison Avenue
Immokalee, Florida 34142
(By appointment)

Child Protection Team is sponsored by the
Collier County Child Advocacy Council, Inc.,
State of Florida Department of Health,
State of Florida Office of the Attorney General
and the United Way of Collier County.



1034 Sixth Avenue North
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CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

COLLIER COUNTY
CHILD ADVOCACY COUNCIL, INC.



FAILURE TO THRIVE

NON-ORGANIC FAILURE TO THRIVE is a form of child neglect which is manifested as a growth failure where there is no evidence suggesting an organic cause for the child's deprivational state.

This disorder usually results from the dysfunction in the parent/child relationship and is characterized by under-eating and subsequent malnourishment.

Infants and children diagnosed as FAILURE TO THRIVE consistently fall below the 3rd percentile for weight and/or height on growth charts. They are infants and children whose weight is less than 80 percent of the ideal weight for their age.

Often the mothers are young, economically deprived, and overwhelmed by their situation. They generally respond well to child protective intervention, education, and support. The child can often remain in the family home.

If you know a child who is being abused or neglected, call Florida Abuse Hotline

1-800-96-ABUSE

PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS

- Young mother lacking parental skills
- Lack of nutritional knowledge
- Depressed, isolated mother
- Poor "fit" between mother and child
- Physically or mentally ill mother
- Lack of support systems
- General neglect elements present
- Unorthodox health and nutritional beliefs
- Family history of undiagnosed FAILURE TO THRIVE

PROFILE OF INFANTS

- Ill-kept
- Straw-like hair/bald patches
- Dry, cracked, peeling skin
- Excessive crying
- Posturing of limbs/arching
- Lack of affect or sad and depressed
- Excessive thumb sucking
- Not easily comforted
- Lethargy or apathy
- Resists cuddling
- Difficulty making eye contact
- Unresponsive to smiles and touch
- Lack of muscle tone/subcutaneous fat
- Pot belly, thin, wasted extremities

MEDICAL ASSESSMENT

- Child's weight and height falls below 3rd percentile on growth chart.
- The rate of length or weight gain is more than two standard deviations below the mean.
- The weight is less than 80% of the ideal weight.
- Significant weight gain in hospital setting.
- Evidence of developmental delays or retardation.
- Suspicion of primary mental retardation.

TREATMENT

- Hospitalization
- Complete blood count
- Thyroid studies
- Assessment of kidney functions
- Change in environment
- Referrals to parenting support and/or educational support
- Homemaker programs
- Monitoring of home situation

WHERE YOU CAN GET HELP OR MORE INFORMATION

- Call your pediatrician, local mental health agency or Department of Health for help.
- Report any suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children & Families in the phone book under emergency numbers.
- Call the Child Protection Team for more information on child abuse and neglect.