**Child Neglect**

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**Introduction**

Child neglect is one method in which children are abused by their parents or guardians whose responsibility should be taking care of them (Proctor et al., 2014). The neglected children are denied parental love and acceptance and basic needs such as proper health care and clothing (Stoltenborgh et al., 2013). In the "The Wild Child" case study, Genie lived with her parents for thirteen years, but in those years, she lived a life of isolation where the father strapped her on the chair since she was a baby up until she was thirteen. Genie was not allowed to speak or cry, could not have friends to interact with, and received neither parental care nor guidance. In this essay, we will use the case of Genie to identify the abnormal behaviors that Genie is likely to develop due to the physical, psychological and sociocultural developmental issues she likely experienced after being saved from her father's misdeeds.

**Body**

Apart from the immediate physical injuries a child experiences when neglected, the child's reaction to neglect may have lifetime effects (Dumaret et al., 2011). The child may later experience lifetime physical, psychological, and sociocultural challenges that may cost their parents and guardians as well (Currie et al., 2010). These challenges may be dependent, and in some cases, they may be interrelated. Therefore, in this essay, we will be discussing the abnormal behaviors the neglected child is likely to develop due to the physical, psychological, and sociocultural problems caused by the neglect the child received.

There are long-term effects of physical developmental issues that may arise for Genie, including brain damage (Currie et al., 2010). When Genie experiences brain damage, she will most likely develop abnormal behaviors such as being violent and physically abusive to others (Proctor et al., 2014). It will be difficult for Genie to play with others since she may end up being physically abusive to them since she lacks the social interaction skills. However, the guardian may have to adopt different behaviors where they can control Genie. Aside from taking Genie to a physiotherapist for brain interventions, the guardian should learn how to behave and play like a child to play around with Genie to help her gain confidence with other children. Playing around will also help shape the Genie's mental state, making her feel more appreciated, which she had lacked when she was with her father.

Similarly, child neglect can cause psychological problems to the child who makes the child has low self-esteem (Toth et al., 2019). Genie may start behaving abnormally by isolating herself at home and in schools. A neglected child is more likely to always feel unloved and hated by everyone due to the circumstances they earlier experienced (Toth et al., 2019). Therefore it's the responsibility of the guardian to start pampering Genie more than others. The guardian should be more loving than before, be patient with Genie, avoid shouting at her even when she is wrong and take her out for playdates and movie dates to make her feel more at home (Proctor et al., 2014). The guardian should also be expected be around Genie more often and create more time to spend with her.

Aside from the psychological issues, a child is likely to develop sociocultural problems later in life due to the trauma (Toth et al., 2019). The sociocultural issues may lead to Genie in her young adult age behaves differently, like abusing drugs. Adults who were neglected at their tender age are more likely to develop tendencies of being alcoholics and abusing drugs, leading them to be at higher risks of having substance use disorders (Toth et al., 2019). The guardian can correct this by being more of her friend and partner than a parent. The guardian should give Genie a safe space to talk about her childhood trauma and not punish her for abusing drugs and alcohol (Toth et al., 2019).

**Conclusion**

Child neglect, in most cases, leads to significant and lifetime impacts on a child, and not only does it affect the child but can also affect the parents, guardians, and society. However, the parents, guardians, and society can help correct the children's behaviors that are likely to develop due to the impacts of their neglect experiences. From the Genie case, I have learned that not every parent appreciates and loves their children as expected in society. Therefore, it's our responsibility to be vigilant with how our friends and neighbors treat their children to save those children who may be going through child neglect before it’s too late.

**References**

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