

RISK CATEGORY I CHILD FACTORS

“More recently. . .we have come to recognize that within the family, abused children have to be considered as potential contributors to their own maltreatment; available models no longer view the child exclusively as an unwitting victim but also as a causative agent in the abuse process.” (Belsky, 1980) “Dangerousness of a caretaker’s behavior and extent of both physical and emotional harm are strongly related to a child’s age and robustness. A blow which could seriously endanger an infant might produce a minor bruise in an different developmental ages.” (Garbarino and Gilliam, 1980)

A) From the video, do you think Eli Creekmore had any particular characteristics or behaviors that contributed to his maltreatment? In general, what characteristics might children have that could make parenting more difficult and place them at higher risk of abuse or neglect?

Any assessment of risk must involve weighing the type of abuse or neglect, and the degree of injury that has resulted, (or might result if intervention does not occur).

B) From the video, discuss the types and locations of Eli’s injuries. In physical abuse cases, what characteristics make certain injuries more severe, thereby elevating the level of risk?

C) Neglect often involves problems in providing food, clothing, shelter, medical care and supervision of children. Did you see any of these issues in the video, and if so, how did they impact the family?