



Believe the child. The child needs to know that there is an adult who believes them and that will help them. The adult should not judge what the child is saying or evaluate the child's statements.

Stay calm. If your facial features or emotional outburst reveals that you are shocked, angry, disgusted, or otherwise upset, the child may not tell you everything about the abuse and may take back the disclosure that they have made.

Provide a safe, private place to talk. It is necessary to provide the child with a private place where they can share and explain what has happened.

Report it immediately. You need to report the disclosure as soon as possible to the appropriate authority.

Handle the disclosure with discretion. Even though reporting is mandatory, it is very important to let the child know that you will handle the disclosure with discretion, that only the people that can help in an effective manner will know about this situation.

Know who and how to report the situation in the school. Before a sexual abuse disclosure happens, teachers must know the appropriate authority and procedures for reporting a disclosure of child sexual abuse to ensure that suitable protection and investigation measures are undertaken

Let the child know what is going to happen. Explain to the child what will happen after the disclosure. You may not be able to answer all of their questions. Be honest and tell the child when you don't know the answer. The information provided should be both age appropriate and based on the child's needs.

Get support for yourself. For your own well-being, it is important that you deal with your feelings about hearing the details of the disclosure. Sometimes talking to the school counsellor or a professional from a specialised organization working on this issue may be helpful.

Do not make promises you can't keep. If you make a promise that you cannot keep, the child learns that you are another adult who cannot be trusted.

Do not judge the offender or the offense. If you start to put down the offender, the child may begin to defend the person, whom they often love.

Do not investigate the child's allegations. Leave the investigation to specialised professionals. Once you have the necessary information to report, it is not necessary to ask for more information from the child. Asking questions may create problems for the investigation or prosecution later on.