



How to Talk to a Child About Sexual Abuse

- » Talk to the child in a safe, nonjudgmental environment.
- » Use a casual, non-threatening tone and choose an appropriate time and place.
- » Speak alone with the child or with trusted adults, never in front of the suspected abuser.
- » Use language the child can understand and ask broad questions like, "Has someone been touching you?"
- » Allow the child to speak freely and ask clarifying questions as needed.
- » Avoid judgment, blame, or placing responsibility on the child; use "I" statements to keep the focus on your feelings.
- » Reassure the child that they are not in trouble and emphasize that they are doing the right thing by talking.