

CHILD SAFETY: HOW TO RESPOND

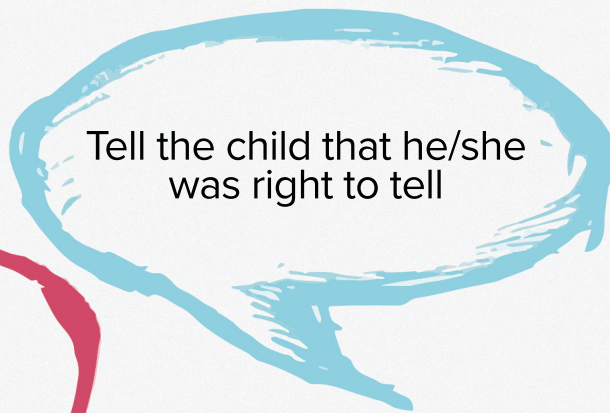
When a child discloses abuse, it is important to respond in a kind, gentle manner.

Here are some suggestions:

If a child discloses abuse, will you know what to do?



Listen



Tell the child that he/she was right to tell

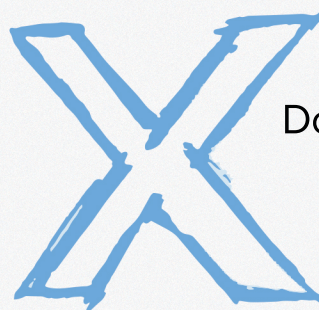


Assure the child that the abuse is not his/her fault

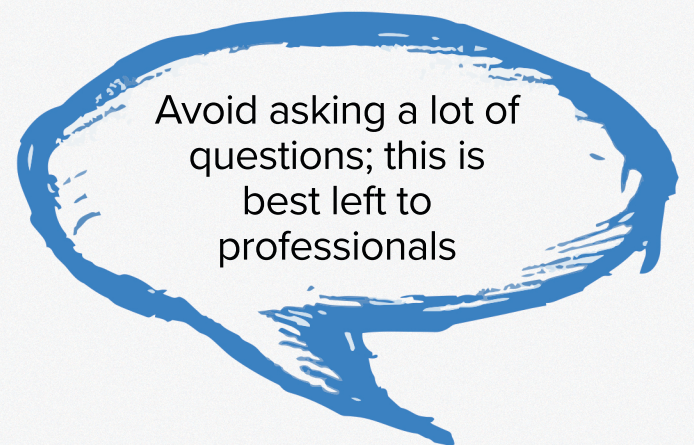
Avoid expressing shock, outrage, or disappointment



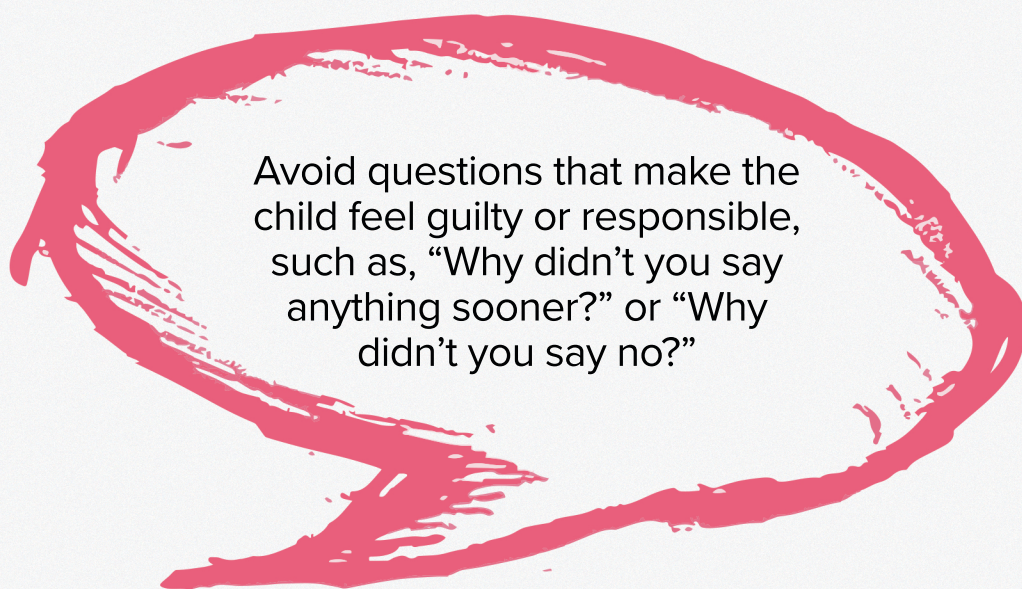
Do not promise to keep the abuse a secret



Do not threaten or condemn the perpetrator



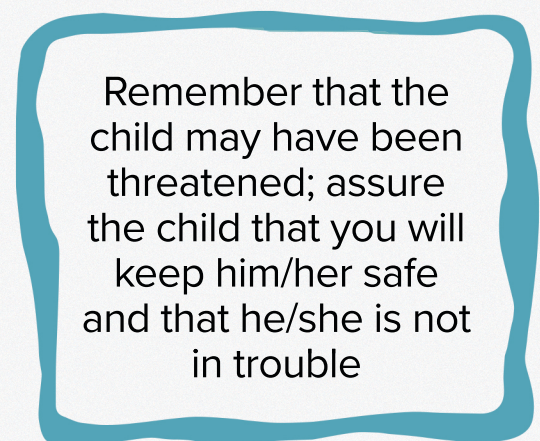
Avoid asking a lot of questions; this is best left to professionals



Avoid questions that make the child feel guilty or responsible, such as, "Why didn't you say anything sooner?" or "Why didn't you say no?"



Report the suspected abuse to the authorities (DCYF and the police)



Remember that the child may have been threatened; assure the child that you will keep him/her safe and that he/she is not in trouble

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