

How to handle the “disclosure”

- This person picked to talk to you for a reason, they trust you and are ready to talk about what’s bothering them.
- Thank them for telling you.
- Say they are doing the right thing.
- Stay calm.
- Don’t act shocked.
- Reassure them it’s not their fault. It is NEVER their fault.
- Help them figure out how to get help.
- Be there, listen.
- Be non-judgmental. Don’t say... “how could you let that happen?” Or, “how could someone ever do that to a kid! That’s sick.”
- Don’t overwhelm them with questions. Let them do the talking.
- You are not responsible for getting the details.
- Let them help you pick out the adult you’re going to tell. Who do they trust?
- School Employees are Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse. An adult can help you.
- If they currently have any injuries – an adult should see them.

Don’t explain or excuse the abuser’s behavior.

- Don’t make any promises you can’t keep.



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