

# Responding to a disclosure

If a child makes a disclosure:

**Do**



Remain calm and level-headed



Reassure the child



Listen carefully and actively



Let them know that you are taking what they say seriously



Tell them what will happen next and what might happen as a result of their disclosure. Be honest about what you know and do not know



Make a note of exactly what they have told you as soon as possible



Share the concern following procedure

**Don't**



Promise to keep secrets



Rush the child's account



Ask leading questions or try to interview the child



Make assumptions



Show that you are upset or angry



Show disbelief or dismiss them



Talk negatively about the potential abuser

