



What can you do? Respond Responsibly

BE A SAFE ADULT FOR A CHILD

We believe it is every adult's responsibility to keep kids safe

A safe adult is someone a child can go to if they ever feel unsafe, have ever been hurt, or if they're not sure if a situation is unsafe.

A safe adult should be someone who:

- Is an adult that can get the child help if they're ever hurt or unsafe.
- Doesn't break personal boundaries with a child or try to get the child to break them.
- The child feels comfortable with and can easily talk to about things that may be difficult to talk about.
- The child can trust to keep them safe.

Teach children...

- To have multiple safe adults
- If you have a safe adult now, and sometime in the future that safe adult doesn't make you feel safe, they you can always choose another safe adult.
- To keep telling safe adults they do not feel safe or have been hurt until someone LISTENS and DOES something to help them.

For more information on being a safe adult go to:

<https://www.d2l.org/how-to-be-a-safe-adult> or
<https://www.mbfpreventioneducation.org/learn-more/safe-adult-club/>

What can you do?

Respond Responsibly



Being a safe adult

Set and Maintain Clear, Protective Boundaries

This is a crucial step because boundaries help us to respect each other and feel respected. A child who knows that you will respect (and even protect!) their boundaries will have an easier time trusting you to take care of them.

Develop Protective Bonds

Really listen when the child talks to you. Show them that you're interested in their opinion; involve them in conversations and show them that their input is valuable.

Talk openly and honestly about difficult subjects, including child sexual abuse

When we talk to children in age-appropriate ways about our bodies, sex, and boundaries, children understand what healthy relationships look like. It also teaches them that they have the right to say "no." This conversation looks different depending on how old the child is, but by discussing tough topics together you become the go-to "expert" for your child. Be clear that your child's safety is of the utmost importance to you,

Taking action as a safe adult

If a child shares or you become aware a child is being harmed

Listen

Stay calm and listen with compassion. Tell the child, "I believe you." Only ask open ended questions, like "Tell me more." You do not need proof. You need reasonable suspicion. Avoid trying to dig for details or having different adults question the child's story. This can re-traumatize the child and damage the investigation and/or prosecution.

Get Help

Report suspicions of child abuse to the CA/N hotline 1-800-392-3738 or 1-844-CAN-TELL.. Reporting is not making an accusation, but asking for professional help, resources, and support for a child and their family. If a child is in immediate danger, call 911.

Legal responsibilities and protections

No business owner or supervisor may impede or inhibit any report. When you make a report in good faith, you are protected against civil/criminal penalty or adverse employment action.

You may be the only person to act

Don't assume someone else is making a report, you may be the only person to act.