

Why Children Don't Tell



- "I'm too ashamed."
- "No one will believe me."
- "I promised to keep a secret."
- "People will look at me differently."
- "I should have fought harder or screamed louder."
- "I don't want to get them in trouble."
- "I'm going to be taken away from my home."
- "He said he'd hurt me if I told."
- "She said she'd hurt my little brother."
- "I'm scared."
- "It's my fault."



If a child discloses abuse or neglect...

DO

- Remain calm.
- Believe the child.
- Allow the child to talk.
- Show interest & concern.
- Reassure & support the child.
- Take action & report.

DON'T

- Panic or overreact.
- Press the child to talk.
- Promise anything you can't control.
- Confront offender.
- Blame or minimize a child's feelings.
- Overwhelm the child with questions.

