

Disclosure Response Checklist



Listen

Listen carefully to all they say. Make eye contact at the child's level, check that you have understood, put your adult thoughts aside and be respectful of the child's perspective.



Affirm

Tell the child that you believe them.



Reassure

Let the child know that what has happened is not their fault.



Support

Tell the child they are not responsible for the abuse and acknowledge that it must have been difficult for them to tell you.



Protect

Let the child know that you will do everything in your power to help them. Be careful though, not to make any promises you cannot keep.



Document

Write everything down, using the child's own words as best you can. Include behaviours and anything they have said previously that may have hinted at the abuse.



Check

Check your organisation/school's policy on reporting disclosures.



Act

Report the disclosure to your State's statutory child protection authority or the Police.

Bravehearts
bravehearts.org.au

Information & Support Line

1800 272 831 (Mon to Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm)

