



WHEN A CHILD DISCLOSES SEXUAL ABUSE TOOLKIT

WHAT CAN I SAY?

SAY THIS...

- "I believe you."
- "I'm glad you told me, thank you."
- "This is not your fault."
- "You are very brave and did the right thing."
- "I'm so sorry this happened."
- "I'm proud of you for telling."

DON'T SAY...

- "Why didn't you tell me before?"
- "I promise we will stop this person/you'll never have to see them again."
- "I am going to hurt the person that did this to you."
- "I am so upset that this happened."

WHEN IT'S YOUR TIME TO TALK...

- Validate their feelings, especially courage. Remember: the child may have been told that telling someone is bad/wrong.
- Be comforting and patient.
- Don't center yourself. You may be very angry or upset, but try not to let your feelings be the focus.
- Don't interrogate the child.
- Let them know that you will have to tell someone else to help keep them safe.
- Avoid making promises you can't keep.



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LET'S FOCUS ON LISTENING

- Give the child your full attention.
- Put your phone down and avoid distractions.
- Be patient and don't interrupt.
- Stay calm, Your calmness will reassure the child that he/she hasn't done anything wrong.
- Mirror expressions and language used by the child.
- Allow for silence.
- Maintain eye contact and open posture.

NOW WHAT?

REPORT THE ABUSE IMMEDIATELY

- Missouri Hotline: 1-800-392-3738
- Kansas Hotline: 1-800-922-5330

CALL MOCSA...

- if you have questions about what to do.
- if you need emotional support.
- if you would like to schedule counseling for your child, yourself, or other family members.

MOCSA

24-hour crisis line:
816.531.0233 | 913.642.0233

mocsa.org



@MOCSAkc



RESOURCES

FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

NATIONAL

RAINN

<https://www.rainn.org/>
800-656-4673

Nat'l Parent Helpline

<https://www.nationalparenthelpline.org/>
855-427-2736

KANSAS

Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas:

<https://www.childrensmercy.org/>
(913) 696-8000

Kansas Children's Service League:

<https://www.kcsl.org/>
Lenexa, KS (913) 621-2016
Overland Park, KS (913) 371-2220

Sunflower House:

<https://sunflowerhouse.org/>
(913) 631-5800

CASA KS:

<https://www.casajwc.org/>
Johnson County: (913) 715-4040
Wyandotte County: (913) 596-1711

Kids, Inc.

<https://kidsincplaytherapy.com/>
(816) 519-9817

KU Behavioral Health Pediatrics

<https://www.kumc.edu/>
(913) 588-6400

MISSOURI

Children's Mercy

<https://www.childrensmercy.org/>
(816) 234-3000

MO Kids First

<https://www.missourikidsfirst.org/>
(573) 632-4600

Children's Place

<https://www.childrensplacekc.org/>
(816) 363-0706

CASA MO

<https://www.casajwc.org/>
Jackson County: (816) 842-2272
Clay County: (816) 736-8400

CAPA

<https://capacares.org/>
(816) 252-8388

Synergy Services

<https://www.synergyservices.org/>
(816) 321-7060

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