

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A HERO!

MAKE PROTECTING CHILDREN YOUR BUSINESS... REPORT ABUSE!

HOW TO RESPOND TO AN OUTCRY OF ABUSE:

1. Remain calm and allow the child to talk without pressure. If you become emotional, that is okay. Reassure the child that you are not upset with them, you are just upset that they were hurt.
2. Your response to disclosure of abuse can impact the child's wellbeing. Assure the child that they did the right thing by telling you and assure them, if needed, that they are believed and are not to blame.
3. Do not make promises to children that you cannot control such as "this person will go to jail".
4. Let the child tell their story, but leave interviewing to professionals. Protecting the child's statement can be critical to an investigation. Do not record any conversations. Be careful not to add your own perceptions or words to what the child has told you. Refrain from questions that may be leading or ask too many details.
5. Immediately report any disclosures of abuse to DFPS at **1-800-252-5400** or local law enforcement. In Texas, any adult 18 or older is required by law to report abuse.



CHECK OUT OUR CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
MONTH PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE
FOR MORE RESOURCES!