

WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD DISCLOSES ABUSE

– DO –

- » Practice your response before the situation arises.
- » Let your body language tell the child that you hear what he/she is telling you and that you believe them.
- » Write down the exact words the child used in the disclosure.
- » Thank the child for having the courage to report this to you.
- » Inform the child, as soon as possible, what will happen next with reporting.
- » Protect the child by not discussing the allegation with others.
- » Report the abuse.

– DO NOT –

- » Use shocked or disbelieving body language when a child discloses to you.
- » If you are skeptical, try not to express your doubts to the child.
- » Record the child's statement.
- » Ask the child to repeat their statement(s).
- » Do not suggest or guess that the child might have been abused.
- » Do not make a conclusion about the validity of the allegation.
- » Do not ask the child any questions.

**Children's
Home
Society**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

REPORT CHILD ABUSE
877.244.0864

Or call **911** if the child is in danger.

chssd.org/prevention