

What do I do if I suspect a child is being sexually abused?

REPORT suspected child abuse to the Police or Child Protection Services

IMMEDIATELY

- Urge everyone to contact the police or child protection services if they know anything about any child abuse;
- Call upon your workers to use message boards, pamphlets, public letters, and other means to encourage victims to come forward;
- Insist that the elders do likewise in the meetings by handing out flyers regarding pedophilia;
- Ask anyone who was victimised to contact WINGS, so they can receive support from others and begin to heal.



*Working to INform,
Guide & Support*

*Those who have been sexually
abused within the
Truth fellowship*



 W.I.N.G.S FOR TRUTH

www.wingsfortruth.info

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How do you know if a child has been sexually abused?



Children who have been sexually abused often tell us without words. Grown ups need to watch for signs that a child is being hurt.

If you suspect that a child you know has been hurt call the police immediately.

Children tell us about sexual abuse in their feelings, in their behavior,

and with their bodies.

A child who has been sexually abused may feel:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Suicidal thoughts and attempts
- Low self esteem
- Fear of certain people or places

A child may:

- Have sleep problems or nightmares
- Not want to eat
- Cry often
- Start wetting or soiling
- Have problems in school
- Become withdrawn
- Show a sudden change in mood or behavior

Children may have physical problems such as:

- Abdominal pain
- Bleeding or discharge
- Difficulty going to the bathroom
- Unexplained swelling or bruising
- Delayed growth and development

Children rely on the grown ups in their lives to keep them safe. If any child you know is showing any of these signs please help them! Call the police. Call a child protection service. Keep the child safe.

**IT'S UP TO US TO KEEP
KIDS SAFE**

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Steps to take to prevent child sexual abuse

Allowing open communication between yourself and your child is the key. Always allow time each day where you sit down and listen to your child—make them feel important and understood with what they're telling you.

Consider having regular discussions with your child in regards to their own safety, privacy and protection.

Topics to discuss could include the “Good touch” versus the “Bad touch”. A good touch is a hug from mom when you wake in the morning... Or a kiss when you get home from school. A bad touch is when someone is touching you and it feels uncomfortable and not right.

Abusers count on us to be confused, to keep quiet, and to not call for help.

Another way to explain about the bad touch is to ask a child what parts of their body does a swimsuit cover? Let them answer in their own words. You can then explain that *no-one* at all is allowed to touch those parts. Not their parents, not their brothers/sisters, not their teacher... absolutely no-one. If their swimsuit covers those parts—they are private and not to be touched by anyone other than in an emergency by a medical practitioner with either a parent or care-giver in attendance.

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Luke 17:2 *It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.*

Steps to take to prevent child sexual abuse

Explain to your child that you give them permission to say “No” if anyone tries to touch them in those areas. Even if it's a grown-up that they know.

Also explain that if someone touches them there... that the child can tell you about it. Let them know how important it is to you that they tell you, and promise to your child that you will believe them.

Teach your child about their gut instinct. If they have a bad feeling about someone—it is best not to be left alone in a room with that person. Your child is special and important... and they need to hear that from you.

Mark 10:14 *But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.*



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