

SCYP - Responding to Disclosures of Abuse



LISTEN

- Move to a suitable environment that allows for privacy and limited distractions where possible.
- Be calm and patient.
- Avoid showing distress.
- Let the child or young person use their own words - avoid asking leading questions, or stating your opinion.
- Avoid "quizzing" the child or young person about the details of abuse.
- Actively listen and repeat what they have said back to them for clarification.
- Take notes during discussion if possible or do so immediately after interaction.



REASSURE

- Reassure the child or young person that they have done the right thing by telling you what has been happening/happened.
- Address any concerns about the child or young person's safety.
- Reassure the child or young person that they are not at fault.



RESPECT

- Respect that the child or young person may only reveal some details.
- Acknowledge their bravery and strength to come forward.
- Respect that they may not want to revisit this topic in the future, do not pressure or re-question outside of their initial disclosure.



REPORT

- Avoid making promises you can't keep - manage the child or young person's expectations.
- Explain to the child or young person that in order for you to keep them safe you will need to tell another adult that can help and support them. Be specific where possible, for example, the Centre Leader.
- Keep the information gathered and people involved confidential. Only share with your Centre Leader or Area Lead (who may then escalate if required).

Here are some good examples of how to ask questions when a child or young person discloses abuse or neglect without leading their answer:

- *Who was there when this happened?*
- *Where and when did this happen?*
- *What happened before/after the incident?*

