



Communicating With Children Where Child Sexual Abuse is a Known or Suspected Concern

Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse told us:

Talking about sexual abuse can be difficult for everyone, including professionals. The responsibility to notice signs, indicators and concerns is for adults around the child. Children need adults who notice signs & indicators and are willing to open the conversation, ask questions sensitively, and show that they are able to listen.

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Children may not always have the language, confidence or understanding to explain what has happened to them.

This means adults must be willing to bring difficult topics into the conversation and create a safe space where children feel believed and supported.

[Communicating with children](#) | [CSA Centre](#)

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Communication should be thoughtful and non-judgemental.

Feeling comfortable discussing uncomfortable topics is important

Words that appear dismissive, blaming or minimising can have a lasting impact and may prevent a child from sharing further.

Communicating is ongoing not just a one off.

The response pathway supports how the child may be feeling and what they need at different points of the criminal justice and safeguarding system

[Child Sexual Abuse Response Pathway](#) | [CSA Centre](#)

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**Think Systemically:
Family, Peers, Education and Community**

Approaching conversations with care, openness and compassion can make a significant difference in whether a child feels safe enough to speak.

Think about who is around that child and their trusted adults

[Supporting parents and carers](#) | [CSA Centre](#)

