

DVD Worksheet Key, Page 3

11. If a child trusts you enough to tell you about the abuse, how should you react to the information?

Children rarely lie about abuse. Do not get angry, because this reinforces the child's fear of reporting. Stay calm. Let the child know that you are there to help the child and assure the child that they did the right thing by telling. Tell the child you believe their story and that you are not angry. Be sure the child understands that you are sorry that this happened, that you will do everything you can to protect them, and that you love them no matter what.

12. When you reasonably suspect sexual abuse, what must you do?

You must shield the child from more abuse, but you must also report the suspected abuse to the proper authorities.

13. What will happen if you don't act?

Offenders will keep on abusing and continue to prey on new victims. The only way to stop the cycle of abuse is by stopping the abuser.

14. Do you need conclusive evidence in order to report abuse?

No, reasonable suspicions are enough. Let the authorities determine how to proceed.

