

# HOW TO REPORT ABUSE: OHIO

## DISCLOSURE TIPS



### WHAT DO YOU SAY?

- An adult's reaction to disclosure plays an important role in the beginning of the healing process for the child.
- "I'm really glad that you told me."
- "It took a lot of courage to tell me."
- "It's not your fault."
- "We will work together to get you help."
- "I will need to tell some other people who help to protect children."



### WHAT ARE THE CHILD'S NEEDS?

- Be careful not to make promises that you cannot keep. Do not promise you will not tell anyone.
- Report immediately.
- Only speak to those who have to know – confidentially.
- Gentle honesty – keep information age-appropriate and general.

## INFORMATION NEEDED



### HAVE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE:



1. The name and address of the child you suspect is being abused or neglected
2. The age of the child
3. The name and address of the parents or caretakers
4. The name of the person you suspect is abusing or neglecting the child and the address if available
5. The reason you suspect the child is being abuse and neglected
6. Any other information which may be helpful to the investigation
7. You have the option of giving your name or reporting anonymously. Giving your name can help the investigator clarify information. The agency will not give your name to the person suspected of abusing the child.



## HOW TO REPORT

In accordance with Ohio law all school personnel and educators are mandated reporters. If you suspect a child is being abused you must make a formal report by calling the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, **1-855-O-H-CHILD (1-855-642-4453)**. Upon calling you will be linked to child welfare of law enforcement office within your county.