

WHAT PARENTS can do today to HELP PROTECT THEIR KIDS from abuse.

Tips for speaking with your child and establishing a safe communication environment

1. Talk to your child about their body.

Use correct names for body parts, and teach which parts are “private.”

2. Talk to your child about boundaries.

They have a right to say “NO” when they don’t want to be touched or feel threatened. Do not force your children to give hugs and kisses even to family members.

3. Talk to your child about what to do.

Say “NO,” go to a safe place, and tell a trusted adult if something happens.

4. Teach your child not to keep secrets from you.

5. Model open, calm communication.

Everyone gets angry at times. When you are angry, model self-calming techniques for your children and your children may be more likely to share openly with you.

6. Begin these conversations at a very young age and encourage ongoing, open communication.

How to respond if a child reveals abuse or neglect:

DO:

- Remain calm
- Believe the child
- Allow the child to talk
- Show interest and concern
- Reassure and support the child’s feelings
- Take action. It could save a child’s life.

DON’T:

- Panic or overreact
- Press the child to talk
- Promise anything you can’t control
- Confront the offender
- Blame or minimize the child’s feelings
- Overwhelm the child with questions

If you have a concern about the safety and well-being of a child, you have a place to turn. The Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center provides expert, comprehensive care for children and families from the moment of concern through the healing process.

Prevent.
Protect.
Heal.



Published in collaboration with the Children’s Advocacy Centers of Texas.



LEARN MORE

Call **843.723.3600** to speak with a member of our staff or to schedule a tour.



GET INVOLVED

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