

How to respond if your child discloses abuse to you:

- Stay calm, listen carefully
- Let your child know they did the right thing by telling
- Let your child know that this is not their fault
- Let your child know how brave it was to share this with you
- Ask open ended questions “Tell me all about that”,
“what happened next”
- Do not try to talk your child out of what they are saying
“Was it an accident”, “Are you sure”
- Do not try to investigate yourself
- Do not contact the offender
- Do not make any false promises
 - Example: “You’ll never have to see that person again”
 - Example: “Nothing like this will ever happen again”
 - Example: “They are going to go to jail for what they did to you”
- Do call the Arkansas Child Abuse Hotline
 - 1.844.SAVE.A.CHILD