



## Addressing Child Sexual Abuse – Handling disclosures

### Points to remember

- ✓ Believe the child
- ✓ Even if you are shocked don't panic, or disbelieve the child because the child is counting on you to provide support
- ✓ Reassure them that it is NOT their mistake
- ✓ Let the child know he/she is safe now
- ✓ Recognize their courage to speak about such a difficult issue
- ✓ Be a listener and not an investigator
- ✓ Do not put words in the child's mouth
- ✓ Do not question the child as to why he/she did not tell earlier
- ✓ Be aware of your tone of voice and help the child understand what you are feeling
- ✓ Reassure the child that they have done the right thing by telling you and that they are not in trouble
- ✓ Do not make promises that you cannot keep like you won't tell anybody, as you need to tell someone to help the child deal with the abuse.
- ✓ Keep information confidential- only those who absolutely need to know should be told
- ✓ Seek professional intervention and support

**Remember - Listen to the children and trust what they say, even if it shocks you**