



Handout for LSLC Youth Volunteers

What should I do if a child tells me s/he is being abused?

Always

- Stay calm – ensure the child is safe and feels safe.
- Show and tell the child that you are taking what s/he says seriously.
- Reassure the child and stress that s/he is not to blame.
- Be honest; explain you will have to tell someone else to help stop the alleged abuse.
- Make a note of what the child has said as soon as possible after the event. Be factual in your account of what the child has said.
- Maintain confidentiality – do not tell anyone who does not need to know.
- Inform the Designated Person for Child Protection Issues of the disclosure immediately; if s/he is not available, inform a member of the LSLC Personnel Committee immediately.

Never

- Rush into actions which may be inappropriate
- Make promises you cannot keep.
- Interrogate the child.
- Show shock or disbelief.



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