

SAFEGUARDING TOPIC OF THE MONTH

Disclosure

Welcome to our first safeguarding newsletter

What is a disclosure? (NSPCC)

Issue 1

- ▶ Disclosure is the process by which children and young people start to share their experiences of abuse with others. This can take place over a long period of time – it is a journey, not one act or action.
- ▶ To ensure the safe handling of a disclosure from a child, there are several basic rules that should be followed:
 - Don't panic – remain calm and reassuring in your manner
 - Give the child your full attention to demonstrate you are listening carefully and taking the information seriously
 - Let the child take their time, go at their own pace and use their own words
 - Reassure them that they did the right thing by telling someone, and that they have been brave in doing so
 - Assure them that it is not their fault and you will do your best to help
 - Let them know that to, ensure they will be safe, you will need to tell someone else
 - Let them know what you are going to do next and that you will let them know what happens
 - Don't make promises you can't keep
- ▶ As soon as possible, you should record what was said or seen ensuring the following:
 - Capture what the child said or saw, **using their words (including any explicit language, names or places)**.
 - Make a note of any questions you asked
 - Ensure that if handwritten, this includes the date, time and where the disclosure took place, who you are and sign it
 - Share this with the DSL or their Deputy if not available, as soon as possible
- ▶ **What else do you need to remember?**
 - Children are likely to disclose to an adult that they have trust in
 - We should be confident to ask children if they are 'ok', "is there something that you want to talk about" when we are concerned about them
 - Is it ok to ask questions so long as these do not 'lead' the child to an answer that we have suggested in our question. An example of this could be if we said "it sounds like your dad is a really mean"
- ▶ Remember the TED questions

TED method



Jenny Webb
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Tamara Dixon
Designated
Safeguarding Lead

**Any concerns seek
support from your
DSL**

**Children's Social Care
please contact:
Telephone:**

0300 123224

**Police: 101 or in an
emergency 999**

CEOP Reporting – online and esafety – click the button

