

Child Abuse Safety Questions

Session Materials

Questions to Ask a Child that are Okay No Matter What

(First, make sure you do what you can to make the child comfortable. Introduce yourself and ask if they know what a police officer does. Indicate that one of your jobs is to talk to kids about things that have happened or when they might need help. Tell the child you need his/her help to figure out what happened.)

- “Did something happen?” “Tell me what happened.”
- “Is there something you’re worried about?” Tell me what.”
- “Is there something someone else is worried about?” Tell me what.”
- “Has someone bothered you?” “Tell me about that.”
- “Has someone done something that wasn’t right?” “Tell me about that.”

If the child reveals nothing:

- “Who can you talk to if you are worried about something?” *[Ask child to name 2 or 3 people.]*
- “Who can you get help from if you are hurt, or if something bad or scary happens?”
“Why do you think ____ can help you?”
- “What can ____ do to help you?”
- “I want you to know that you can tell me anything. And if you want to talk to me about something later, you can call me.” *[Give the child a card with a phone number where you can be reached, and if the child calls, make sure you can take the call or get back to him/her ASAP.]*

