



OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE

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06. If your child discloses any history of sexual abuse, listen carefully, and take his or her disclosure seriously. Too often, children are not believed, particularly if they implicate a family member as the perpetrator. If you don't intervene, the abuse might continue, and the child may come to believe that home is not safe and that you are not available to help.
07. Support your child and let him or her know that he or she is not responsible for the abuse.
08. Bring your child to a physician for a medical examination, to ensure that the child's physical health has not been affected by the abuse.
09. If you have concerns that your child may be a victim of sexual abuse, you should talk with your child's paediatrician, a social worker or counselor, the police or anyone in the child protection sector. These individuals can discuss your concerns, arrange for examination of your child, and make necessary referrals and reports.
10. Most children and their families will also need professional counseling to help them through this ordeal, and your child's paediatrician can refer you to community resources for psychological help. The Victim Support Unit that operates out of the Ministry of Justice is also a good avenue through which to access psychological support on a parish level. Lodging a report to the Office of The Children's Registry at 1-888-PROTECT (1-888-776-8328) is also a good way to access support services.





The Office of The Children's Advocate recognizes that sexual abuse is a problem that traumatizes children and robs them of their childhood. Sexual abuse has the deleterious effect of leading to antisocial behaviour, depression, identity confusion, loss of self-esteem and other serious emotional problems. It is therefore important that parents, guardians, caregivers, and all persons who work directly with children, ensure that they are aware of the signs of sexual abuse against children.

01. In early childhood, parents can teach their children the name of the genitals, just as they teach them the names of other body parts. This teaches that the genitals, while private, are not so private that you can't talk about them. Children should also be taught that no one has the right to touch their bodies if they don't want that to happen. Help children differentiate between a 'good touch' versus a 'bad touch'.

02. Teach children early and often that there are no secrets between children and their parents/guardians, and that they should feel comfortable talking with their parents/guardians about anything—good or bad, fun or sad, easy or difficult. That's the correct thing to do.



03. Beware of adults who offer children special gifts or toys, or adults who want to take your child on a 'special outing' or to special events.

04. If enrolling your child in a daycare or any programme, select one that has an 'open door' parent policy. Monitor and participate in activities whenever possible.

05. As children age, create an environment at home in which sexual topics can be discussed comfortably in an age appropriate context. Use news items and publicized reports of child sexual abuse to start discussions of safety, and reiterate that children should always tell a parent/guardian about anyone who is taking advantage of them sexually.



Here are a few tips

