



what to do if you think a child is being abused

listen to the child

Let the child talk to you about his or her concerns. Don't ask a lot of questions. Believe the child. Children rarely lie about sexual abuse. Their statements about abuse should be taken seriously.

support the child

Children may feel sexual abuse is their fault. Let them know they didn't do anything wrong. Thank them for telling you.

stay cool

A child may not talk about abuse if you become angry or emotional. Stay calm.

take action

Children who are being abused must rely on adults to keep them safe. Do not try to forget the problem or hope it will go away.

report your concerns to your local child welfare agency

A report is simply a request for an investigation. You do not have to know for sure that abuse happened. By law, any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused MUST report such knowledge or suspicion immediately. No one but the child welfare agency will know that you made the report.

The toll-free number to call in Tennessee to report child abuse of any kind is: **1-877-237-0004**

OUR KIDS CLINIC SITES

nashville

1804 Hayes Street
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 341-4911

clarksville

Montgomery County Child Advocacy Center
1030 Cumberland Heights Road
Clarksville, TN 37040
(931) 553-5140

cookeville

Upper Cumberland Child Advocacy Center
750 East Spring Street, Suite A
Cookeville, TN 38501
(931) 854-0115

lawrenceburg

A Kid's Place Child Advocacy Center
614 West Point Road
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
(931) 766-2213

manchester

Coffee County Child Advocacy Center
104 North Spring Street
Manchester, TN 37355
(931) 723-8888

murfreesboro

Rutherford County Child Advocacy Center
503 Highland Terrace Suite C
Murfreesboro, TN 37130
(615) 867-9000

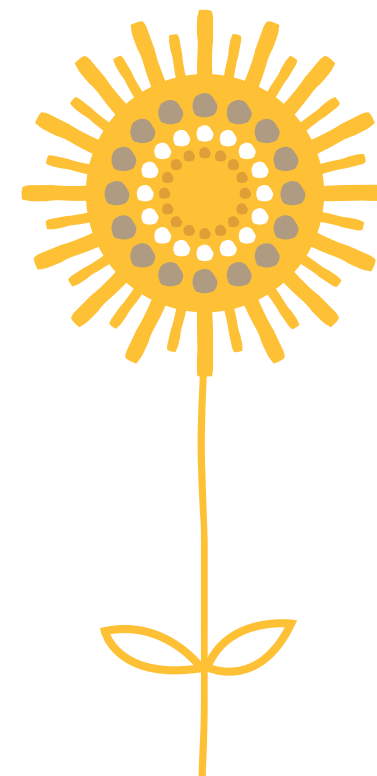


www.OurKidsCenter.com



HELP HOPE HEALING

for children and families affected
by child sexual abuse



the problem

Child sexual abuse is sexual contact or activity with a child when consent is not or cannot be given. It can range from obscene phone calls to having a child see sexual activity to touching a child's private parts to sexual intercourse.



the need is real

National statistics reveal that about **1 in every 4 girls and 1 in 7 boys** will experience some form of child sexual abuse by age 18. Most children are sexually abused by someone they know and trust. **65% of the 750 children** Our Kids examines each year are seven years of age and younger.

for more resources, scan the QR code below:



the mission

Our Kids provides expert medical evaluations and crisis counseling to children and families affected by child sexual abuse. Our Kids also conducts research and increases community awareness about child sexual abuse.

At Our Kids, nurse practitioners and social workers respond to the unique needs of each child and caregiver.

Our Kids provides the following clinical services:

- Expert medical evaluations
- Crisis counseling
- 24/7 on-call coverage by nurse practitioners & social workers
- Diagnosis & treatment of STDs & other infections
- Referral services
- Expert court testimony
- Service to 47 counties in Middle Tennessee
- Research that contributes to the larger discussion of child sexual abuse
- Training on child sexual abuse for referral sources and other groups



Our Kids®



teach your children

Teaching children about sexual abuse is the best way to help keep them safe.

Teach them:

- **The real names for their body parts,** including their private parts so they can talk about things that happen in a way others will understand.
- **Not to keep secrets.** Tell your children to let you know if a child or adult plays secret games or tells them something bad will happen if they don't keep a secret.
- **That adults are not always right.** Tell your children to come and talk to you if they don't feel right about something a grown-up says or does.
- **To tell if something happens.** Let your children know that if they say someone has touched them, you will believe them and not be angry. Tell them that you love them and will help keep them safe.