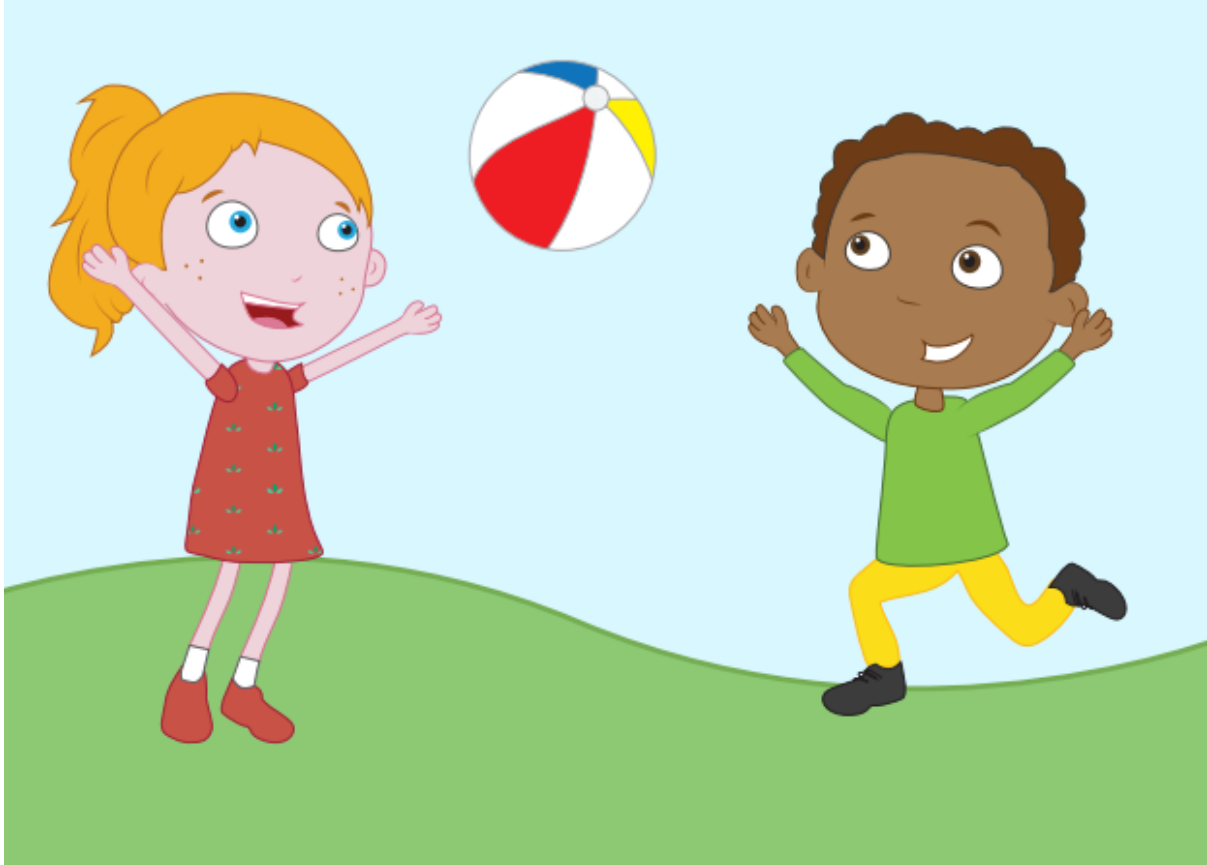


safestrongandfree

HIGHLAND

*"Preventing sexual assault and exploitation of children
is the responsibility of the whole community"*



Waystorespond

It can be very difficult for children to disclose abuse. They often delay in telling anyone and some never tell. A child's experience will be directly affected by the response they get from the person they disclosed to. We need to ensure we get it right, listen to the child and ensure they feel believed. It's vital you act on what you have been told.



If a child disclosed to you, you can help them...

Listen

Listen very carefully and communicate that you are listening effectively. Don't react in shock or disbelief or the child may not talk to you anymore.

Reassure

Let the child know they have done the right thing. Tell them it's not their fault.

Believe

They might have kept the abuse a secret in fear of not being believed. Let them know you believe them.

Explain

Dependant on age of child explain you'll need to report abuse to someone that will help.

Take action

It is important that the abuse is reported without delay. The details will be fresh in your mind and action can be taken quickly. Try to take notes on what the child has said, try to be as accurate as possible.

Report abuse to:

Children's Services:

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| NSPCC | www.nspcc.org.uk | 0808 800 5000 |
| Children 1 st | www.children1st.org.uk | 0131 446 2300 |
| Police | www.scotland.police.uk | 101 (or in an emergency 999) |
| Crimestoppers | www.crimestoppers-uk.org | 0800 555 111 |

Further guidance:

| | | |
|------------|--|----------------|
| NSPCC | www.nspcc.org.uk | |
| Childline | www.childline.org.uk | 0800 1111 |
| Parentline | www.children1st.org.uk/what-we-do/our-services/search-our-services/parentline-scotland/ | 08000 28 22 33 |