

# Who Could YOU Tell?



*If you are touched where you should not be touched, you should always tell a grownup. There are grownups at home you could tell, grownups at school and in your town/community. Help match the description of the grownup on the left with their name on the right. Green Bear has done the first one for you.*

They are considered your parents.

FIREFIGHTER

This person helps you when you are sick.

TEACHER

This person puts out fires.

MOM & DAD

This person *teaches* you in school.

GRANDPARENTS

This person wears a badge and keeps you safe.

DOCTOR

These people are your parents' parents.

POLICE

*Remember, if the first person you tell doesn't HELP you, keep telling different adults until someone does help.*

# A Note to Parents

## Disclosing Child Sexual Abuse

Astonishingly, less than 40% of children ever disclose being abused. If a child discloses abuse to you, they are trusting you with a life-altering secret. The adult's response to abuse is critical, not only to the well-being of the child, but to the progress of the investigation. When listening to a child's disclosure of sexual abuse, just remember **I CARE**.

<b>I</b>	<b>Information.</b> Secure basic information- "What happened? Who did this? Where did this happen?" <i>Do not question the child in detail.</i> Do not ask leading questions such as, "Did this person touch you inappropriately?" Only one person should talk with the child; multiple interviews not only interfere with an investigation, it may also cause the child to self-blame or recant.
<b>C</b>	<b>Calm Demeanor.</b> If a child discloses abuse, remain calm. Remember you are not angry at the child, but at the abuser. When disclosing, a child can mistake anger or disgust as directed toward them. If this happens they could either recant (say the abuse never happened) or change their story (to try and please you).
<b>A</b>	<b>Assure the Child.</b> Assure the child they are not to blame for the abuse. Reassuring phrases you may utilize include, "This was not your fault.", "You did the right thing in telling," or "I am so sorry this happened to you." Avoid blaming statements such as, "Why didn't you tell sooner?"
<b>R</b>	<b>Report Suspected Abuse.</b> Remember, most perpetrators have more than one victim. <i>Immediately</i> report suspect child abuse to Missouri's Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738. In cases of suspected sexual abuse or severe physical trauma (such as broken bones), notify your local police department at 911 of your suspicions.
<b>E</b>	<b>Encourage Counseling.</b> Support counseling, not only for the abused child, but for non-offending family members. Southeast Missouri Network Against Sexual Violence has counseling available on site and can refer the child and family to qualified therapists near the child's residence. For questions regarding counseling, contact our office at 573.332.1900.

