



## Sample talking points

**Everyone can do something to prevent child abuse. When you see an adult losing patience with a child, intervene but keep it positive. If a child is in danger, offer assistance or call for help.**

- Talk to the adult to direct attention away from the child.
- Divert the attention of a misbehaving child by talking to him or her.
- Find something to praise about the parent or child.
- Stay with a child who appears to have been left alone until the parent returns.
- If you suspect abuse or neglect, contact your county child protective services or health and human services department.
- Call 911 if a child in danger or is being physically mistreated.

**There are other ways you can help support families.**

- Tell the children in your life they have the right to feel safe at all times and they can talk to someone they trust whenever they are not feeling safe.
- Get to know the children in your life so they feel comfortable talking to you if they feel unsafe. Pay attention to changes in their behavior; this may indicate that something is wrong.
- Find out what parenting classes are offered in your community and sign up. Encourage other parents to do so as well.
- Volunteer your time with programs dedicated to the welfare of children. If you do not have time to volunteer, make a financial contribution.
- If you see a parent struggling to keep cool with his or her child, approach and say something like, "Looks like you're having a rough day. Is there anything I can do to help?"

*These are sample talking points that you can tailor to the nature of your audience and the format and length of your program. Remember to focus on the fact that everyone in the community can do something to help prevent child abuse.*