



Safeguarding Conversations

Supporting calm, appropriate responses

Safeguarding conversations do not rely on having the perfect words, but on adults being present, attentive and willing to listen. While many professionals will already have experience in this area, revisiting the basics can help maintain consistency, reinforce professional curiosity and build confidence in everyday practice. Calm, supportive conversations, combined with timely sharing of concerns, remain one of the most effective ways to safeguard children and young people.

Key principles

- listen without judgement
- avoid leading questions
- do not promise confidentiality
- reassure appropriately

What to say / avoid

- Helpful language:
- “I’m glad you told me.”
- “I may need to share this to help keep you safe.”

Avoid:

- interrogating
- expressing shock
- making assumptions

Next steps

- record factually
- report via safeguarding procedures
- maintain professional boundaries



Prevention and protection begin with adult awareness

Free resources support awareness. Training supports understanding and confidence.