

**CARSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**REPORT OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT**  
Appendix 5

**TALKING TO CHILDREN/STUDENTS ABOUT ABUSE OR NEGLECT**

Talking to a child who starts to disclose, how to navigate, when to stop the interview.

1. If a child begins to disclose
  - a. Listen attentively
  - b. Do not have an opinion about the topic discussed (good/bad) or the person being discussed (good parent/bad parent)
  - c. Ask open-ended questions
    - i. Examples of open-ended questions:
      1. I notice you have a bruise. How did it happen?
      2. Tell me more about that.
      3. I'm not sure I understand, can you explain what happened?
      4. What does that mean?
      5. Tell me about who lives with you?
      6. Tell me more about who does \_\_\_\_\_ at home. (i.e. cooks, cleans, helps with homework, bathing, etc.)
  - d. If the child says, "my father hit me" or "this is happening to me" try to gather minimal facts, what happened, where, when, and by whom, if the child will tell you from you asking a few following closed-ended questions.
    - i. Examples of leading closed-ended questions
      1. Where did this happen?
      2. What did he hit you with?
      3. Who was there?
      4. How did it happen?
  - e. Do not ask leading questions to draw out information even if you know the answer, this can contaminate the investigation as they tend to suggest a particular response from a child.
    - i. Examples of leading closed-ended questions
      1. Did mom or dad hit you?
      2. Did mom or dad leave you by yourself again?
      3. Did mom or dad touch you inappropriately?
      4. Did someone in your family touch/hurt you?
      5. Is it true that...
  - f. Take notes and write down exactly what the child says, their words, their vocabulary, so when you report you can relay what the child stated. Or if you are able to remember without notes, do so, but remember your report must reflect the child's exact words.

- g. Ask for only enough information to clarify whether you need to make a report. If you feel there is reasonable cause to believe that child abuse or neglect has been disclosed stop the interview, make the report to Law Enforcement or DCFS or both. You do not need proof it has happened, only reasonable cause to believe something has happened to make a report.

NRS 432B.121 - Definition of when person has “reasonable cause to believe” and when person acts “as soon as reasonably practicable.” For the purposes of this chapter, a person: 1. Has “reasonable cause to believe” if, in light of all the surrounding facts and circumstances which are known or which reasonably should be known to the person at the time, a reasonable person would believe, under those facts and circumstances, that an act, transaction, event, situation or condition exists, is occurring or has occurred.  
2. Acts “as soon as reasonably practicable” if, in light of all the surrounding facts and circumstances which are known or which reasonably should be known to the person at the time, a reasonable person would act within approximately the same period under those facts and circumstances.

Adopted: February 12, 2019