



# I am listening

**Preventing child abuse is everyone's responsibility.**

The initial response to a disclosure of abuse can have an important impact on the mental health of the survivor.



## I AM LISTENING & I WILL DO MY PART

### How to listen:

#### 1. STAY CALM

It's ok to show emotion, but if you do, let the child know that they are not to blame for your distress.

#### 2. BELIEVE

Even if you are shocked, and even if the abuser doesn't fit the profile of what you think of as an abuser.

#### 3. ASSURE

Make sure the child feels that it is right to tell you.

#### 4. NO BLAME

Tell the child that they are not to blame for what happened.

#### 5. YOU ARE BRAVE

Let them know that it is brave to talk about something so difficult.

#### 6. REPORT

Report any suspicion of child abuse to local law enforcement or **Solano County Child Welfare Services** at **1-800-544-8696** or to **1.800.4.A.Child (24/7)**



[bayareapreventchildabuse.org](http://bayareapreventchildabuse.org)



[partnersinprevention.org](http://partnersinprevention.org)