

# Caring for Young Survivors of Sexual Assault



## Sexual Assault Response Network

A Community Program of **HelpLine**



**Supporting.  
Connecting.  
Healing.**

# Caring for Young Survivors

Child sexual abuse is physical, visual, or verbal sexual contact with a minor by an adult, teen, or another child. Child sexual abuse is often a gradual process, with the adult deliberately testing a child's boundaries using their familiarity with the child, social status, or power - also called "grooming".

- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually assaulted before age 18
- Children with disabilities are five times more likely to be assaulted
- 1 in 2 transgender children are sexually assaulted
- LGBTQIA+ youth are assaulted at a much greater rate than their straight-identified peers

## Listen. Support. Believe.

Caring for a young survivor after a disclosure of sexual abuse can be challenging. While children are resilient and can heal from this abuse, healing takes time and patience.

- Listen, believe, and accept them. Your support is extremely important
- Be available and open to kids' needs to help re-establish their sense of security, safety, and control
- Allow them to express their range of feelings in a safe way

Call our support and information line  
at **1.800.684.2324** and **211**  
or text helpline to **898211**  
Suicide and crisis lifeline, **988**  
Deaf or hard of hearing: **711** or **1.800.750.0750**  
Language Services Available



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*HelpLine is a tax-exempt organization under the 501(c) 3 Internal Revenue Code.  
Calls are toll-free and standard rates apply when using our text service.*

*HelpLine is an equal opportunity employer/provider.*