

Ways to respond to harmful behaviour towards a child

If you see violence against a child from a parent or guardian - the child is pulled, called names, humiliated, or beaten (e.g. spanking) - **react!**

Your reaction to harm restores your child's sense of security and gives you a chance for a better future. It can also protect your child's health and even life!

How you can react:

PAY ATTENTION

Signal that you have noticed a situation of child abuse. Making eye contact may be a sufficient response to stop the violent behaviour of a parent, guardian or other adult accompanying the child. Don't be afraid to observe. You have the right to observe what is happening within the Facility or public space.

GET IN TOUCH

1. When such strong emotions tear a parent and when he or she is unable to stop violence against his or her child, rational arguments will not reach him or her. If you want to respond effectively, try to lower his or her tension.
2. Ask a simple question, such as: "Excuse me, did something happen? "
3. You can also refer to your own experiences, for example: "I remember when my children were this age. This is a very difficult time. Can I help you with something ? ".
4. Sometimes, it is enough to say loudly: "I see that it is difficult for you" or "Sometimes we have a bad day, and then we cannot communicate."
5. Just trying to start such a conversation can make a parent think and stop violence against a child. It may also be the beginning of a further conversation leading to calming down the situation.

NAME THE SITUATION

Don't criticise or attack, but don't avoid calling things by their name.

Talk calmly but firmly about what worries you - e.g.: "I see that you hit the child", "Please don't hit the child. Please never do this."