

So, You Need Some Help...

Maybe you made a mistake. Maybe you need some advice about something uncomfortable. It's not always easy to approach an adult in these situations. This guide has tips for talking to a trusted adult and how to navigate their responses.



Tip #1

Practice

Practice what you want to say *to start the conversation* as well as the *main points* you want to be sure to include. It's easy to leave out important details when you're nervous or if a conversation gets heated. Say the words out loud. Try practicing in front of a mirror.



Tip #2

Be Clear About What You Want

What do you want your trusted adult to do? Give advice? Help make a report? Just listen? Whatever it is, be clear about how they can help you.



Tip #3

Be Honest, Even If It's Hard

You might feel embarrassed or ashamed of a mistake, or worried that if you tell the whole truth, adults will get mad or people will get in trouble, but honesty really is the best policy. Laying it all out there may even mean the problem gets solved faster because everyone has all the facts.



Tip #4

Focus on Forward

Answer any questions your trusted adult has about what happened, but try to keep the conversation moving and focused on what actions you and your trusted adult will take next to resolve the situation.



Tip #5

Keep Calm

Try to keep calm throughout the conversation. You may feel nervous at the beginning, someone may get angry in the middle – that's normal. If things become too tense to move on, it's OK to take a break and come back to the conversation. Practicing what you want to say (tip 1) will also help you stay calm during this discussion.

Most importantly **know that it's always OK to ask for help**. It may not be easy, but it will be worth it.

- If the first trusted adult you go to can't or won't help, **KEEP TRYING**.
- No matter what you're dealing with, there is someone who can help. You're not alone.
- You can report sexual abuse or online sexual exploitation to **CyberTipline.org**.
- You can find more resources at the **National Child Traumatic Stress Network**.