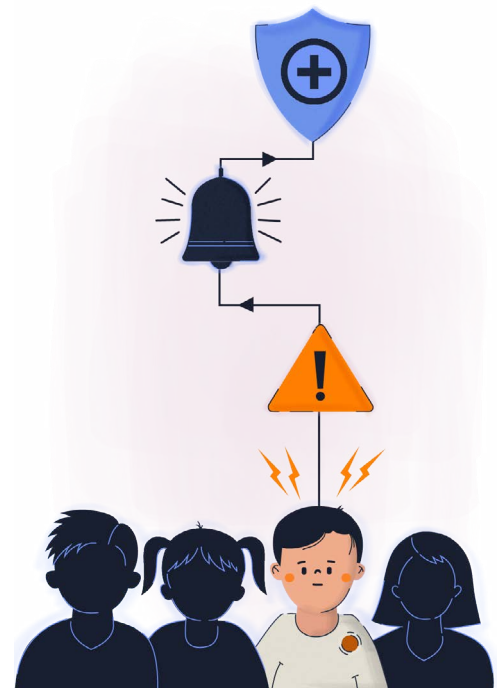


Recognising child abuse - Spotting signs

There are many reasons why children do not report abuse. These could include:

- Believing it is their fault
- Being afraid of the consequences
- The abuser has convinced them the behaviour is normal
- Shame or guilt
- A feeling of loyalty to the abuser



Common signs and behaviours to look out for



Spending an inappropriate amount of time with an adult who is not a family member



Suddenly turning up with new expensive items, such as the latest phone or clothes



Using inappropriate language for their age



Being secretive



Going missing



Acting distant and not engaging in activities



Always wearing clothes that cover their body, even in hot weather



Having a fear of certain people or places



Behaving differently to the group in changing room situations



Displaying sexually inappropriate language



It is vital that adults working with children are able to spot the signs that something could be wrong.