

Respecting Privacy in Support

Protecting dignity, ownership, and trust

Children deserve support that helps them feel safe — not exposed. Just because a child is young does not mean adults should automatically share personal information openly.

Children still deserve privacy, dignity, and ownership over their own story. Support can cross a line when adults assume that everyone needs to know everything.

But privacy should never come at the expense of safety. If a child shares something that suggests they or someone else may be at risk, adults may need to involve the right people to keep them safe.

Where possible, children should still be told who may need to know, why it needs to be shared, and what will happen next.

Children deserve privacy — but they also deserve safety.

Before sharing information

- Does this person actually need to know?
- Has the child agreed to this being shared?
- Is this the right time and setting?
- Does this protect the child's dignity?
- Am I sharing to support the child — or to make things easier for adults?
- Is this about dignity — or is this about safety?
- Does someone genuinely need to know this to protect the child?
- Have I explained to the child why I may need to share it?

Not everything needs to be explained publicly. Not every adult needs full access to a child's story.

Children deserve ownership over their own story.

Before stepping into friendships

- Has the child asked for help?
- Am I supporting the child — or managing the relationship?
- Could this create more pressure or embarrassment?
- Have I given the child space to handle this first?
- Is this about safety — or my own discomfort?

Support in friendships should create space, not take over.

Helping too quickly can sometimes take away dignity.

When support becomes too personal

- Adults speak for the child without checking first
 - Personal information is shared in front of peers
 - A child's needs are discussed as if they are not present
 - Adults step into private social moments too quickly
 - Support becomes over-explanation instead of protection
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Support should protect dignity as much as it provides help.