When a Child Asks for Help, Do Not Turn Disclosure Into a Punishment Trap - working notes

One situation. Clear facts. An honest next step.

Listen, thank the child for seeking help and address safety through the appropriate route. Keep ordinary rule correction separate from the child's access to trusted adults.

Hypothetical example: A child reports an uncomfortable contact after breaking an account rule. The adult responds to protection first and discusses the account boundary separately without asking the child to continue the contact.

01 Receive the approach before asking for a defense

Listen and identify the help or protection needed.

Help category only

Immediate protection need

Trusted adult involved

02 Let safety decide the next adult action

Use appropriate urgent, safeguarding or reporting routes.

Appropriate official route

Action owned by adult

Sensitive record kept outside this form

When a Child Asks for Help, Do Not Turn Disclosure Into a Punishment Trap - working notes / Review & follow-through

03 Separate accountability from access to help

Keep ordinary rule accountability separate from access to help.

Ordinary rule issue kept separate

Support available now

Promise we must not make

04 Explain what happens next

Explain the next step and return with the actual response.

Next explanation to child

Follow-up time

Response or help actually received