



# Child-Friendly Inclusive Safeguarding Policy





This booklet has been designed by Able Child Africa for all children and young adults with disabilities.

We hope it helps you to understand that you **have the right to feel safe** and that there are always people at Able Child Africa who will listen to you and help you.

If you have any questions or want to discuss something with us, you can talk to any adult who works with Able Child Africa, or email

[safeguarding@ablechildafrica.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ablechildafrica.org.uk)



## Introduction

Able Child Africa is an organisation that supports children and young adults with disabilities in Africa.

In our projects, we want to make sure **all children**:

- Feel **safe** and **happy**.
- Feel **listened to**.
- Feel **protected** by the adults who work with them.



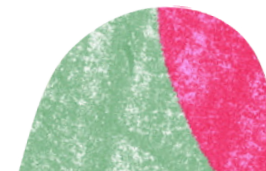
## Important things to know

### Who is included?

Anyone who is aged 18 years old or below is a child. Able Child Africa works with all children, girls and boys.

It does not matter if you have a disability, what your race is, or what your religion is.

**Everyone** is included.




## What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is something that organisations like Able Child Africa do to make sure that children feel safe, happy and listened to in our work.

We know that some children and young adults with disabilities need different things to feel safe, so we make sure that we protect them too.

## Why is safeguarding important?

All children, including children with disabilities, have the right to feel safe, happy and listened to. It is wrong for anyone to hurt or upset you and it is our job to stop bad things from happening to you in our projects.



**The most important thing to know is that people should never hurt you or any other child.**

## Our projects should never hurt you

Sometimes people do bad things to other people, including children. Bad things include hitting a child, touching a child's private parts, saying words to a child that upsets them, making a child do something they don't want to do or not taking good care of a child.



**Physical Abuse**



**Sexual Abuse**



**Neglect**



**Emotional Abuse**



**Exploitation**

Sometimes children with disabilities are treated badly just because they have a disability. They might be ignored, called bad names or made to feel silly.



This should never happen to you during one of Able Child Africa's activities. **But if it does happen it is never your fault.**

### Adults should look after you

In our projects, adults should

**NEVER:**



- Bully you or make fun of you.
- Hurt you or cause you pain.



- Touch you if you don't want them to.
- Ask you to do something that makes you feel frightened or embarrassed.
- Treat you badly because you are different or because you have a disability.
- Take photographs or videos of you without your permission.

In our projects, adults should

**ALWAYS:**



- Listen to you if you are worried.
- Include you and treat you fairly.
- Help you if you feel safe.
- Check you understand what is happening and why.

## What should you do if someone hurts you?

It is very important that we know when children are worried or upset about something.

If someone hurts or upsets you during an activity, or if you feel unsafe, it is important that you tell somebody.

If you see someone else get hurt, or a friend tells you someone is hurting them, it is also important you tell someone.



## Who should I tell?

You can speak to any adult you trust if you are worried, hurt or upset about something.

If you or another child felt unsafe during our projects, here are some people you can talk to:



Parent or carer



Teacher



Sign Language Interpreter



Any Project Staff



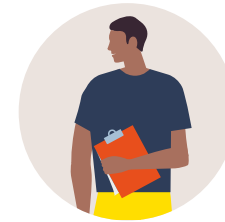
Doctor or Nurse



Police Officer

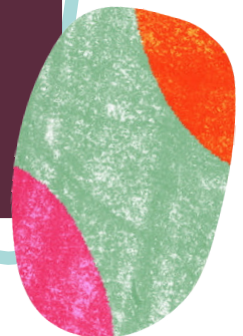


Personal Assistant



Activity Coordinator

**It does not matter who you talk to. The most important thing is that you tell someone.**



## How can I tell someone?

You can let us know you are worried, hurt or upset in lots of different ways. You could:



**Speak to someone**



**Write to someone**



**Show someone**



**Ask someone else to help you**

You may feel more comfortable to ask someone else to help you, and this is okay.

Someone that could help could be a parent, friend, teacher, or a sibling.

We will listen to all children, including those who communicate in different ways.

If you need someone to help you to communicate, such as a sign language interpreter, we will make sure we help you with this.

## What will happen if I tell someone?

We will always listen to you and make sure you receive help.

We will also make sure you are involved in any decisions we make to make you feel safe.

**Nothing bad will happen to you if you report something.**

What happens next will depend on what has happened, but we will make sure that everything is explained to you in a way you understand, so you know what is happening.









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[info@ablechildafrica.org.uk](mailto:info@ablechildafrica.org.uk)  
[www.ablechildafrica.org](http://www.ablechildafrica.org)

UK: Unit 6 Madeira Tower, 34 Ponton Road, Nine Elms, London, SW11 7BA  
US: 13051 Abercorn Street, Ste B3 – 503, Savannah, GA, 31419

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