



Child-on-Child Abuse guide for parents and carers

As parents and carers, you have an important role to play in combating prejudice and discrimination among children.

You have the chance to make a difference by:

- Setting a good example for your children through the language that you use and the behaviour that you show towards others
- Talking to your children about what prejudice and discrimination look like and getting them to think about their attitudes and how they treat others
- Giving your children support and encouragement if they experience prejudice and discrimination.

“Prejudice and discrimination seriously limit children’s development and growth. They lead to some children being left out and denied the opportunity to develop friendships and to learn new things...in the end, everybody loses out from the effects of prejudice and discrimination.”

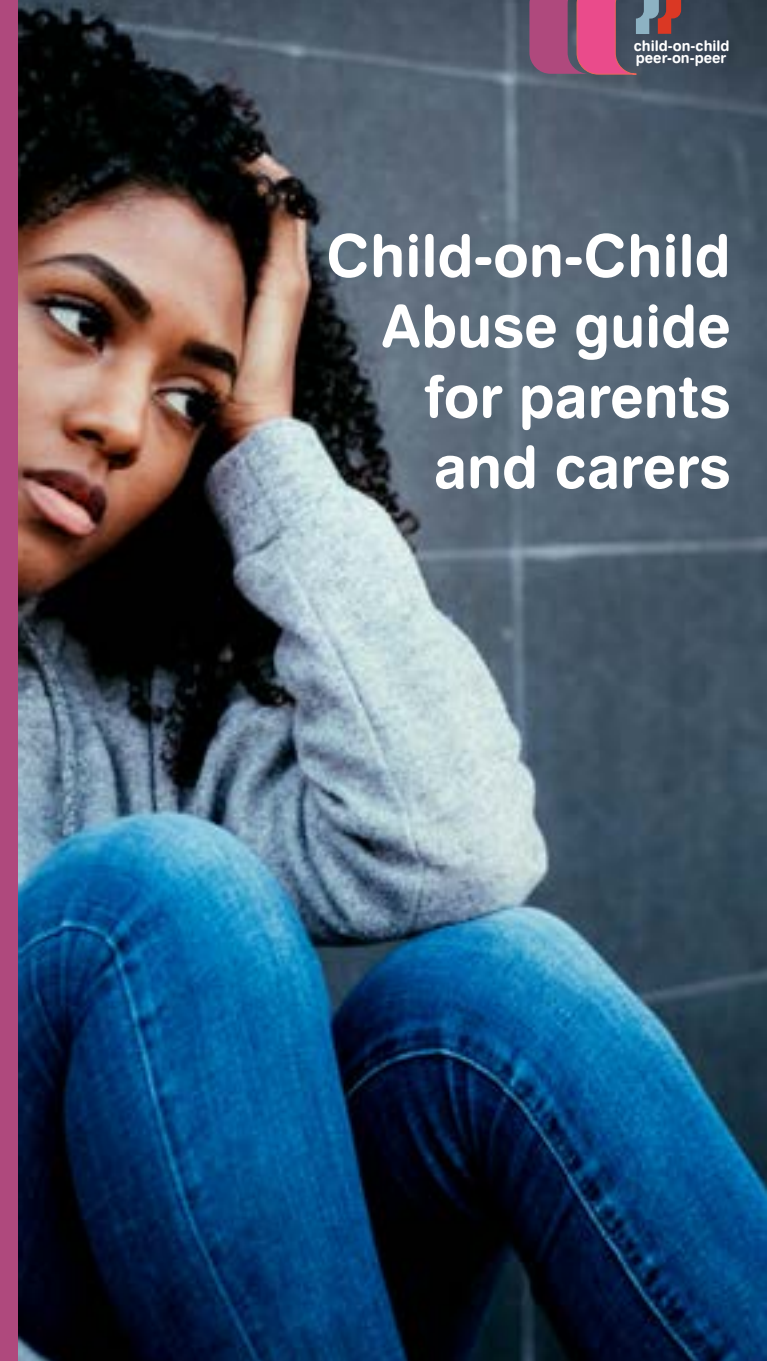
Fairplay, Barnardos

YOUNGMINDS

Young Minds is a charity set up to support parents/ carers and young people to talk about their experiences and promotes positive mental health.
youngminds.org.uk

NSPCC

This webpage provides ideas about how to open communication or start difficult conversations with your child.
Talking about difficult topics | [NSPCC](#)



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Child-on-child abuse is any form of physical, sexual, emotional or financial abuse, including coercive control, taking place between children, and within children's relationships (both intimate and non-intimate), friendships, and wider peer associations.

Child-on-child abuse is when a young person is:

- exploited, bullied and/or harmed by their peers who are the same or similar age,
- involved in Child Sexual Exploitation, harmful sexual behaviour and serious youth crime/violence,
- subject to online, social media and electronic platform abuse.

Schools

It is essential that all staff understand the importance of challenging inappropriate behaviours between children that are abusive in nature.

Downplaying certain behaviours, for example dismissing sexual harassment as "just banter", "just having a laugh" or "part of growing up" can lead to a culture of unacceptable behaviours and an unsafe environment for children.

In worst case scenarios, a culture that normalises abuse, leading to children accepting it as normal, may lead to children not coming forward to report it.

Prejudicial Related incidents

"A prejudice-related incident is any incident which is perceived to be prejudice-related by the victim or any other person."

Treating a person less favourably because they have one or more of these characteristics would be unlawful. The protected characteristics are:



Age



Disability



Sex



Pregnancy and Maternity



Race



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Sexual orientation



Religion or belief



Gender reassignment

Child-on-Child abuse might look like:

- bullying
- physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting or hair pulling
- prejudicial language or behaviour, for example, not liking someone based on a protected characteristic
- initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element)
- sexual harassment
- consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or upskirting
- causing physical harm (this may include sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault).



How to report

⚠ Inform your educational setting who will follow their behaviour policy

⚠ Call the police on 101 or in an emergency, call 999