Be AWARE

This graphic is used by Wiltshire Police to assist in capturing the voice of the child.
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THE VOICE OF A CHILD



APPEARANCE



Describe the child's Physical appearance; do they appear thin, pale, dark shadow under their eyes, listless? Or do they appear curious, and 'Smiley'. Have you noticed any patterns
Consider factors such as are they appropriately dressed? Are they withdrawn?
Have there been any changes.....if so what?

WORDS



Be professionally curious: take the time to fully understand what has happened and consider what you are being told. Capture and record the child's own words if you can.
Look at a child's verbal and non-verbal behaviour: avoid interrupting them and take the time to listen to their feelings about what has happened.

ACTIVITY & BEHAVIOUR



How is the child/young person interacting with professionals and other children? Are they acting out or being aggressive? What is the context? Does the child/Young person respond as you would expect a child/ Young person to respond in that situation?

Be aware of how misconceptions and stereotypes can affect our practice: previous experiences and/ or biases can affect our ability to recognise harm or abuse.

RELATIONSHIPS & DYNAMICS



Is parental interaction appropriate between parents/guardian and child? Who is with the child? Consider social relationships- are they isolated, who are their friends?
Who do they live with? Who cares for them (consider other names they mention, who are they?)
Do you have any concerns? Use your professional knowledge and be curious

ENVIRONMENT



Think about the environment you are speaking to children in: can they speak freely? Is it somewhere they feel comfortable? Be aware of sensory triggers.
Would moving elsewhere help them to express their views e.g. going for a walk