

Reasons Why Children Do Not Tell About Physical or Sexual Abuse



- Fear that their parents will be mad at them or will hurt them worse for telling
- Fear their family will blame them
- Desire not to get their parents into trouble
- Fear of being removed from their homes
- A belief that it's okay for their parents to hurt them or sexual touch them, it happens to all children
- Fear of not being believed especially if they have already told and no one believed them or someone called them a liar for telling
- Shame or guilt
- Worry that others will find out and think "bad" of them
- Belief that they deserve the abuse for their "bad" behavior or for being worthless
- Threats to hurt or harm other people/pets/loved ones if they tell
- Being made to keep it a secret
- Worry that it will happen to younger siblings if they tell
- Feeling like they have no power or control to stop it
- They love their parent or abuser and don't want them to get in trouble

