

Child Production Disclosure example video

(Dave)

A child that I coached had recently begun acting differently in training by becoming more withdrawn and had begun arriving to training sessions in his kit and going home with his kit on, despite it being dirty.

I was concerned with this behaviour and at the end of the session one night had the opportunity to ask if everything was OK. I could see that it wasn't so I told the child if there is anything they wanted to speak to me about then I was there to help.

The child told me that another boy in the group had hit him in the changing rooms. I listened carefully and let him tell me what had happened in his own words. I remembered from my Safeguarding training that the first thing I needed to do was reassure the child that what happened wasn't his fault.

The child didn't want me to tell anyone else, but I explained that I had to let our Club Welfare Officer know so that we could ensure this didn't happen again.

Immediately after the conversation I wrote down everything that had been discussed and reported my concerns to our Club Welfare Officer. Following the action they took, we were able to ensure the child began enjoying his sport again.

My top tips for coaches in this situation are:

- Always make sure you're approachable to the people that you coach; as a children's coach you are probably one of the most important and influential people in their life.
- Listen carefully to what is being said.
- Don't interrupt or ask unnecessary questions as this may stop the child from making the disclosure.
- Record what was said as soon as possible
- Let the child know that you have to report what has been said in line with your club or sport's policy.
- Report the disclosure to your Club Welfare Officer or Governing Body Safeguarding Lead – they will know what action to take next.
- Finally, if a child is in immediate danger you should always call the emergency services immediately.