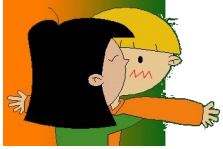
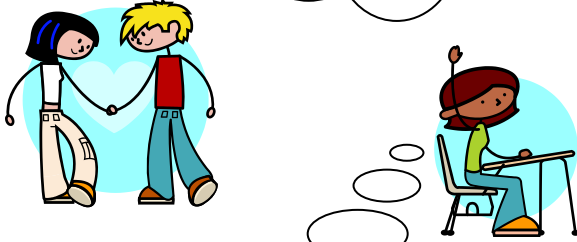


What is Sexual Assault?

Being forced to kiss someone



Being touched when you don't want to be



Being forced to touch or look at someone's private parts (genitals)



Forced sex (intercourse)

*This information provided by
Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres.
For more information, go to
www.sexualassaultsupport.ca*

Information for Professionals:

What can you do to help when somebody discloses to you that they have been sexually assaulted?:

DON'T react with disbelief, disgust or anger at what he/she tells you.

DON'T do/say nothing.

DO NOT give advice. For example:

- "If I were you, I'd..."
- "You have to tell your mother what happened..."
- "If you don't charge this guy, he'll just do it again..."

DO NOT insist or coax him/her into any course of action.

DO NOT call the police against his/her wishes.

DO NOT conduct an "investigation" into his/her story.

Without permission (consent), it is Sexual Assault.



What Can I Do To Help?

DO believe him/her.

DO tell him/her that it's not her fault. Nobody invites sexual assault or wants to be sexually assaulted.

DO refer to a hospital, clinic or doctor that can provide medical help and testing for unplanned pregnancy, HIV and sexually-transmitted infection.

DO refer to colleagues in the wider community who have expertise and be able to assist further.

DO refer to the Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres. Go to [www. sexualassaultsupport.ca](http://www.sexualassaultsupport.ca)

DO support and respect his/her choices. The coping strategies this person is using have helped him/her to survive.

DO protect confidentiality. Tell him/her this, too.

