



Miracle Minds Academy

Parent Action Policy

What Parents Must Do if They Suspect Sexual Abuse of Their Child (0–2 Years)

Address: 13 Waterford Street, Morningside, Somerset West, 7130

Miracle Minds Academy is committed to the safety, dignity, and well-being of every child. If a parent or caregiver ever has a **concern or suspicion** that sexual abuse **may have occurred**, the steps below must be followed **promptly and calmly**.

Parents do **not** need proof to act.
Reasonable concern is enough.

STEP 1: HAVE YOUR CHILD SEEN BY A DOCTOR (FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT STEP)

If you suspect sexual abuse, your **first action must always be to seek medical care.**

Take your child **as soon as possible** to:

- A **state hospital or clinic**, or
- A hospital with a **trauma or forensic unit**, or
- A medical professional trained in **child abuse assessment**

Medical professionals are trained to:

- Examine young children **gently and respectfully**
- Check the child's health and well-being
- Record observations appropriately
- Guide parents on next steps if required

If the concern may be recent:

- Do **not** bathe your child
- Do **not** apply creams, wipes, or ointments to the genital area
- If possible, keep the child in the same clothing or nappy
- Bring clothing or nappies in a **clean plastic bag**

Medical care is important **even if there are no visible injuries.**

STEP 2: ENSURE YOUR CHILD FEELS SAFE

While arranging or attending medical care:

- Keep your child with you
- Offer comfort and reassurance
- Remain calm around your child

At this age, children respond best to **safety, calmness, and routine**.

STEP 3: INFORM MIRACLE MINDS ACADEMY

Once medical care has been arranged or completed, please:

- Inform the **School Principal or Manager** as soon as possible

This allows Miracle Minds Academy to:

- Take appropriate protective steps if required
- Support the family
- Comply with legal child-protection responsibilities

Raising a concern does **not** imply fault or wrongdoing by the school or any individual.

STEP 4: REPORT THE CONCERN

In South Africa, suspected child abuse **must be reported**.

Parents may report to:

- The **Department of Social Development**
- The **South African Police Service (SAPS)**
- A hospital or clinic (medical professionals will assist with reporting)

Medical professionals are **mandatory reporters** and will guide parents through the process.

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD NOT DO

To protect your child and the process:

- **X** Do not confront the suspected person
- **X** Do not investigate on your own
- **X** Do not repeatedly question your child
- **X** Do not delay action because you are unsure

Uncertainty is normal. **Delay is not recommended.**

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR PARENTS

Acting on a concern is about **protecting your child**, not blaming anyone.
Seeking medical care and following these steps helps ensure your child's safety and well-being.

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