

DSL Reflection Handout: Difficult Safeguarding Conversations

Webinar by Ian Curry – Hosted by **Veema Education**

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Purpose of this Handout

This handout is designed to support DSLs in reflecting on their approach to difficult conversations with children. Use this to evaluate your current practices, identify areas for development, and plan meaningful next steps.

I. Personal Reflection: What's Working Well?

What are you currently doing in your role that supports effective and safe conversations with children?

- Example prompts:
- What strategies help children feel safe enough to speak?
- How do you create a calm and confidential environment?
- Which of your own recent conversations went particularly well, and why?

Your Notes:

2. Challenges & Barriers

What do you find most difficult when navigating sensitive or safeguarding-related conversations?

- Common themes:
- Staying neutral when the disclosure is distressing
- Balancing honesty with age-appropriate explanations
- Managing your own emotional response

Your Notes:

3. Tools & Strategies from the Webinar

Tick the ones you currently use, and star any you'd like to implement:

- ☐ Building trust and rapport
- ☐ Setting group ground rules
- ☐ Using open and supportive language
- ☐ Staying calm and non-judgmental
- ☐ Giving children time to speak
- ☐ Using child-appropriate language
- ☐ Avoiding euphemisms
- ☐ Being honest about confidentiality
- ☐ Recording and reporting correctly
- ☐ Signposting ongoing support
- ☐ Ending conversations with a clear action plan
- Others to try:
 - ★ Using drama or creative arts to explore difficult topics
 - ★ Follow-up conversations or reflective journaling
 - ★ Incorporating child-led sessions

4. Practising Responses

Based on scenarios shared in the webinar, how might you respond?

Student: "They keep sending me messages that are really horrible, and now others are joining in."

Supportive response examples:

- "Thank you for telling me. That sounds really tough. We'll work through this together."
- "You've done the right thing by speaking up. Let's talk about what happens next and how we can help."

Write your own response below:

5. Action Plan

What will you improve or change following this webinar?

What further support or training would help you in this area?

Next Steps:

- ☐ Share key points from webinar with safeguarding team
- ☐ Role-play practice scenarios during CPD
- ☐ Update safeguarding scripts/templates
- ☐ Book further training (e.g., online safety, child-on-child abuse)

Useful Reminders

- 📌 Never promise confidentiality.
- 📌 Always record disclosures using the child's own words.
- 📌 Support does not stop at the first conversation — plan follow-ups.



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