OSCE checklist for child health nursing: child safeguarding

OSCE checklist for child health nursing: a child safeguarding disclosure needs calm listening, accurate recording and prompt referral through the safeguarding pathway. Use this original practice checklist with your course guidance and supervised skills teaching.

Numbered practice steps

1. Check immediate safety and urgent medical needs first. Introduce yourself and confirm the child's identity when safe. Explain your role and the limits of confidentiality in age-appropriate words. Listen without making safeguarding action dependent on a suspected abuser's consent; use hand hygiene before clinical contact.
2. Check immediate safety and urgent medical needs. Find a suitable private place without isolating the child from safe support they want to have.
3. Explain in age-appropriate words that you may need to tell people who can help keep them safe. Do not promise to keep harm secret.
4. Let the child speak in their own words. Use open prompts, avoid repeated or leading questions and do not attempt to investigate or test the account.
5. Record the account as accurately as possible, separating the child's words, observed findings and your concerns. Do not ask them to demonstrate or recreate harm.
6. Contact the supervising practitioner and safeguarding lead promptly. Follow the emergency pathway for immediate danger and agree safe arrangements before the child leaves.
7. Close by checking understanding, ensuring comfort and cleaning your hands and equipment as appropriate. Document findings and hand over any unresolved safety concern to the supervising practitioner.

Common omissions

Telling a child they must be mistaken may stop disclosure. Confronting the person named can create danger. A plausible explanation from an adult does not remove the need to escalate unresolved concerns.

Try an original practice task

Use a fictional verbal disclosure without graphic detail. Practise your first response and an objective handover. The exercise is listening and escalation, not an interview to prove abuse.

These steps support learning, rather than authorising independent treatment. Follow your school's task and local policy; ask for help when a decision exceeds your competence.

Related nursing practice

Return to child health nursing OSCE practice or use the full checklist directory.

For a related communication exercise, try the child safeguarding practice station. Its task and clinical setting may differ from this checklist.

Common questions

Is this a school marking sheet?

No. This is an original learning checklist. Your school sets the task and assessment criteria.

Can I print this checklist?

Yes. Use the PDF download on this page for practice.

Sources

- NMC: The Code
- NICE CG89: child maltreatment

Checked 2026-11-13. Fees and rules change, so confirm them with the regulator before you book.