

# ***How to Stop Child Abuse in a Public Place!***

It can be very uncomfortable to watch the mistreatment of a child by an adult out of control; fortunately there are things you can do to help...

- Start a conversation with the adult to direct attention away from the child. Say something like:
  - *“She seems to be trying your patience.”*
  - *“My child has gotten upset like that, too.”*
  - *“He has beautiful (eyes)” – (to get the parent in a positive mood).*
  - *“Children can wear you out, can’t they? Is there anything I can do to help?”*
  
- Divert the child’s attention (if misbehaving) by talking to the child.
  
- Praise the child and parent at the first opportunity.
  
- If the child is in danger, offer assistance. For example, if the child is left unattended in a grocery cart, stand by the child until the parent returns.
  
- Avoid negative remarks or looks. They will likely increase the parent’s anger and may make matters worse.

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[www.gobroomecounty.com/FVPC](http://www.gobroomecounty.com/FVPC)

**NYS Child Abuse & Maltreatment Hotline: 1-800-342-3720**

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