Abuse in Public Places

If you see a child being abused in public, do what you can to help:

Divert the adult's attention. Start a conversation with the adult. Offer sympathy. For example, you could say, "Shopping with children can really try your patience, can't it?"

Talk to the child.

If the child is acting out or misbehaving, start a friendly conversation to distract him or her.

Praise the parent or child. Find something positive to say about the child or the parent. For example, "That's a pretty dress your daughter is wearing. Where did you get it?"

Offer to help.
For example, if a child has been left unattended in a grocery cart, stay near him or her until a caretaker returns.

Avoid negative looks or comments. This may only increase the adult's anger, making things worse for the child.





