

## IS YOUR CHILDREN FIRST TRAINING UP TO DATE?

“I work as a Dentist in a Health Centre. A teenager I was treating over a number of months had openly spoken to me about being teased and called names due to the condition of his teeth. We had built up a good rapport.

During one appointment he spontaneously disclosed that his parents were also “mean” to him. He described relentless chastisement and ridicule by them. He was tearful and clearly distressed.

Thankfully, I had recently completed the mandatory Children First e-Learning module. I was more familiar with the possible indicators and signs of child abuse. What he had described, to me, seemed to amount to a pattern of emotional abuse. Because of the training, I was better able to respond and make a professional judgement. I decided that I had reasonable grounds for concern.

Overall, I felt more knowledgeable about the steps that I needed to take when reporting my concerns to Tusla - Child and Family Agency. When submitting my report on the Tusla online portal, I detailed the emotional abuse and the impact that it appeared to be having on the boy.”



### You could make all the difference

The module is easy to follow and provides key information for every professional to help when making those decisions to ensure children are protected.

**Stay Informed:** Complete or refresh your ‘An Introduction to Children First’ e-Learning module on [HSeLanD](https://www.hse.ie/hseland).



For more information go online and  
[visit www.hse.ie/childrenfirst](https://www.hse.ie/childrenfirst)