People who are abused often do not tell about abuse for various reasons, including:

**FEAR**
Abusers often manipulate or threaten victims that if they tell – victims feel afraid that they did something wrong and will get into trouble.

**GUILT**
Victim may feel guilty or confused for “letting” the abuse happen – especially if some of what the abuser did feels good.

**MANIPULATION**
Abusers can convince people that they share a rare relationship, and that what the abuser does is out of love or because the child is special.

**LACK OF AWARENESS**
Some people with disabilities, including autism, don’t realize they are being abused.

**PROTECTION**
Victim may be afraid that the abuser will get into trouble.

**OBEEDIENCE**
Victim may be taught to be overly compliant, to follow directions, and to always do what others tell them to do, especially someone with authority.

**INDIRECT DISCLOSURES**
When victims tell, it may be long after the abuse or may be indirect. Children with autism may attempt to disclose, but may not directly report the abuse to a trusted adult.