### DON'TS





# My friends are distressed. What should I do to help?



Listen to them attentively  $\heartsuit$ 



Ignore them



Encourage them to share with you their distress at their own pace



Do nothing

See if there is any suicidal risk, e.g. self-harming or making a will. If yes, you should seek help with them

Being indifferent

## What should I say to friends with distress?



Give them hope, by saying,

"Your problem cannot be solved right at this moment. But you can solve it step by step and thing will get better.



Show them your care and support, by saying,

> "I am here for you and I am willing to help."

[6] Ignore their feelings. Don't say,

"Your problem is trivial. There is nothing to be unhappy about!"



Make judgmental statements. Don't say,

> "They are just kidding!! Don't be touchy!"

## What should I do if my friends keep silent?



Let them know that you are there for them, by saying,

"I am willing to listen. I will stay with you. Call or text me when you are ready to tell.



Insist that they speak. Don't say,

> "How can people know why you are unhappy if you do not speak!!"









Student Health Service, Department of Health http://www.studenthealth.gov.hk/english/health/health.html