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Hawker with toddler traced, kin summoned to police station

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NAVI MUMBAI: The hawker who was spotted with a two-year-old girl on Friday was traced and brought to the Vashi police station on Sunday.

On Saturday, a social worker, Siddh Vidya, had spotted a hawker with a girl and on questioning did not give satisfactory replies. She had called various helplines who passed the buck and did not help her.

"On the orders of commissioner of police, K L Prasad, we started screening all the roadside hawkers who clean ear wax. Our teams questioned many locals till we finally traced the girl to Govandi," said Suresh Mengade, DCP (crime). She and the hawker, Satish Chavan, were brought to the police station. "He said that the girl's mother had gone to Aurangabad and had left the girl in his care," he added. The cops have summoned the girl's family and will discuss proper care as she was found dirty and hungry.

"We appreciate Vidya's effort in bringing this to our notice. We will probe if the control room did not respond appropriately to her complaints, if there are discrepancies we will take strict action," he said.

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Teacher booked for sexual assault on four-year-old

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NAVI MUMBAI: The parents of a four-and-half-year-old girl have lodged a complaint against a 27-year-old teacher working at a playschool in Nerul, accusing him of sexually assaulting their daughter. The parents, in their complaint, have also accused the playschool principal of threatening them against approaching the police and lodging a case.

The police said that an FIR was lodged on Saturday under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Section 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code. The crime took place at the playschool on February 23 when the teacher allegedly touched the girl inappropriately. The victim later told her parents about the incident.

The minor's father said, "On learning about the sexual assault, we immediately contacted the principal. However, instead of informing the police, he threatened us with a defamation suit if we went ahead and lodged an FIR against the teacher."

A medical examination of the girl at a civic hospital had shown some injuries to her private parts, said the father. The police said that the accused teacher had been booked under sections 4, 8 and 10 of the POCSO Act. He has not yet been arrested, as soon after the incident, he left for his hometown in Bihar. The police are trying to trace him.

The playschool could not be contacted for comments as it was closed on Sunday.

"I had accompanied the girl's parents to the police station. The management of the playschool is also to be