



Stand for Children

How to Talk with Children about Touching Safety Rules:

- **Include safety rules about touch when you talk about other types of safety. Tell children that some adults have “touching problems” and this is not the child’s fault.**

“If you are touched by someone in a way that you don’t feel right, tell me or _____ about it. We will believe and help you.”
- **Repeat simple safety guidelines often.**

“We don’t keep touching secrets in our family.”
“Trust your feelings if something feels wrong – you’re right.”
- **Play "What ifs" to practice decision-making.**

“What if we got separated in the mall?”
“What if someone we know really well touched you in a confusing, uncomfortable way and asked you to keep it a secret?”

What to do if a Child Discloses:

- Stay calm. Avoid shock or disgust. Your reaction could increase their fear or feelings of guilt.
- Tell the child they are not to blame.
- Acknowledge the courage it took to tell. Tell them you are proud of them.
- Let the child know you will help and support them.
- Tell them you will do everything you can to keep them safe.
- Assess the child’s immediate safety.
- Report the abuse. Call the Pennsylvania Child Line: 800-932-0313.
- Make the call without your child present. To avoid fear, confusion or guilt, he or she should not overhear this conversation.
- **Children who feel believed and supported have a better prognosis for healing!**



www.familysupportline.org

610-891-5275