

Talking about Touching (TAT)

During class time, we will be covering the Always Ask First Rule – Always ask your parents or the person in charge first if someone wants you to go somewhere with him or her. This will include a brief discussion about who and what a stranger is and what to do if a stranger approaches. Sam's Story will then be read to the children. The entire story is below. Then we will cover the Touching Rule – A bigger person should not touch your private body parts except to keep you clean and healthy, and that your private body parts are those covered by a swimsuit.

Sam's Story

By Molly Anderson

Sam loves to sing. She likes to make up her own songs. She sings to her dog. She sings with her mom. Lots of times, she sings just for herself. Sam likes herself.

Sam and her friend Jesse sing together too. Sometimes they sing while they play in the sandbox. One time when they were playing and singing, Sam's dog jumped in with them! Jesse got sand in his eyes. When he started to cry, Sam gave him a hug. Jesse felt much better. Hugs are nice when you need them.

Once Sam got a hug she didn't like. It was from a friend of her mom's. Sam tried to pull away. She felt mixed-up. Why didn't this big person understand?

When the friend left, Sam and her mom had a talk. "Sam, do you remember the rules about touching we talked about?" asked her mom. "Yes," said Sam, "Sometimes I have to say No."

"Yes," said her mom. "Here are two times to remember that: 1) Say "No!" to a touch you don't want, like too much tickling. 2) Say "No!" if an older person wants to touch your private body parts. Those are the parts of your body covered by a bathing suit."

One day Sam and Jesse were swinging at the park. An older boy came over to them. He asked if they wanted to play a secret touching game. He wanted to touch their private body parts. He said, "It will be just our secret."

Jesse felt so scared, he didn't say a word. Sam remembered what her mom had said. "No," said Sam in a little voice. Then in a louder voice she said, "No! We don't want to play that game with you!"

The big boy left. Jesse was still unhappy. "Let's not tell anyone," he said to Sam. The two walked quietly to Sam's mom sitting nearby.

"Why do you look so sad?" she asked. Sam looked at Jesse and then at her mom. Then, she told her what had happened at the swings. Sam's mom bent down and hugged them both. She was very happy that Sam had told her.

"What happened was not your fault," she told them. "Always tell someone if an older person scares you or tries to trick you. I'm glad you told me, Sam." Jesse and Sam felt much better. Soon they were back on the swings while Sam's mom pushed first one, then the other.