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What Is My Child Learning?

Your child is learning never to keep secrets about touching, it is never his or her fault if someone breaks the Touching Rule, and to keep telling adults about a broken Touching Rule until someone helps.

Why Is It Important?

Children may be afraid to tell about sexual abuse because they've been told to keep it a secret. Knowing touching secrets are not okay and they can get help makes it more likely children will report abuse.

Ask your child:

- What should you do if a person breaks the Touching Rule? Possible answers: Say words that mean no. Say, "I don't want to be touched." Tell an adult.
- What is the Never Keep Secrets Rule? Second Step answer: Never keep secrets about touching.
- What if the person who broke the Touching Rule tells you to keep it a secret? *Second Step* answer: Tell an adult. Touching secrets are not okay.
- What should you do if you tell an adult and he or she doesn't believe you? Possible answers: Tell another adult. Keep telling adults until someone helps you.

Practice at Home

During the week, work with your child to identify adults to whom he or she could report a broken Touching Rule. Tell your child it's important to keep telling until someone helps him or her.

Activity

Help your child write what to say to you and to another trusted adult outside of your home to report someone breaking the Touching Rule. Have your child practice what to say out loud.

What to say to report a broken Touching Rule:

| 1. | Who are you reporting to? |
|----|---------------------------|
| | What can you say? |
| | , , |
| 2. | Who are you reporting to? |
| | What can you say? |

| (CHILD'S NAME) | (DATE) | (ADULT'S SIGNATURE) | | |
|----------------|--------|---------------------|--|--|

