

Dear Family,

As you know, we are using the *Second Step* program in your child's class. The *Second Step* program teaches children important skills for getting along with others and doing well in school. It also helps our school be a safe and supportive place where everyone can learn.

To help make our school even more safe and supportive, we are also going to use the *Second Step* Child Protection Unit. In this unit, your child will learn the following specific skills to help him or her stay safe from dangerous or abusive situations:

- How to use the **Ways to Stay Safe** to **recognize** when something is unsafe, **report** anything unsafe to an adult, and **refuse** to participate
- How to always ask a parent or the person in charge first before going somewhere, doing something, or accepting something from someone
- How to recognize safe, unsafe, and unwanted touches, and how to use the **Private Body Parts Rule** to identify possible sexual abuse
- How to refuse and report unsafe or unwanted touches and how to report possible sexual abuse to an adult

To keep your child safe and protected, everyone at school needs to be involved. So all our staff will get special training in how to:

- Recognize and report suspected child sexual abuse and other forms of maltreatment
- Respond to and support children who have been abused or who are facing other challenges
- Use strategies that promote a safe and supportive classroom

You also have an important role in helping your child stay safe! Home Links 1–5 in the Child Protection Unit have activities to help you and your child create a **family safety plan**.

If you have any questions about the Child Protection Unit or the *Second Step* program, please contact me. If you **do not** want your child to participate in the Child Protection Unit lessons, please complete, sign, and return the bottom portion of this letter. For more information on our school's child protection policies and procedures, check our school website or contact the school office.

Go to **SecondStep.org** and log in with the Activation Key **CPU4 FAMI LYG4** to get more information about what your child is learning in the Child Protection Unit. Thank you for helping us make our school a safe and supportive place where everyone can learn.

Sincerely,

**I do not want my child, \_\_\_\_\_, to participate in the *Second Step* Child Protection Unit lessons.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Caregiver Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Go online today**

**SecondStep.org** Activation Key:  
**CPU4 FAMI LYG4**

Dear Family,

As part of the *Second Step* Child Protection Unit, your child is learning important safety skills that will help him or her stay safe from dangerous situations. Your child is learning how to use the **Ways to Stay Safe** to **recognize** when something is unsafe, **report** anything unsafe to an adult, and **refuse** to participate.

You play the most important role in helping your child stay safe. Below are ways you can help your child learn and practice the skills in the Child Protection Unit.

**Completing the family safety plan:** Home Links 1–5 in the Child Protection Unit have activities to help you and your child create a **family safety plan**. This plan will cover:

- Emergency contacts
- Staying safe on your own
- Refusing unsafe and unwanted touches
- Reporting a broken Private Body Parts Rule, including overcoming barriers to reporting

Work with your child to complete each part and post the plan somewhere in your home where you and your child can see it easily. Use your **family safety plan** regularly to help you talk with your child about how to stay safe both inside and outside your home. Go online to [SecondStep.org](http://SecondStep.org) using Activation Key **CPU4 FAMI LYG4** to learn more about the **family safety plan**, including how to put it together.

**Using the Always Ask First Rule:** Remind your child to always ask you or the adult in charge if you are not there before going somewhere, doing something, or accepting something from someone. Encouraging your child to follow the **Always Ask First Rule** will help him or her stay safe.

**Preparing your child for being on his or her own:** As children get older, they spend more time on their own, with no adult in charge making sure they stay safe. Talk regularly with your child about what he or she needs to do to stay safe when adults aren't around.

- **Buddy system:** Make sure your child walks or buses home with a buddy—another child who can help your child stay safe—and that he or she understands both children are responsible for helping each other stay safe.
- **Checking in:** When your child is alone, make sure he or she has a way to contact you and the two of you have a plan for checking in regularly.
- **Know safe routes:** If your child walks to or from places like school or after-school care alone, talk with him or her about what the safest routes are and make sure your child follows these routes every time he or she is walking alone.

Make sure to join **SecondStep.org** with the Activation Key **CPU4 FAMI LYG4** to find more information on how you can help keep your child safe from dangerous situations.

Sincerely,

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**SecondStep.org** Activation Key:  
**CPU4 FAMI LYG4**

Dear Family,

As you know, your child is learning skills that will help keep him or her safe. One of these skills is how to recognize unsafe and unwanted touches. Unsafe touches are any touches that hurt. Unwanted touches are any touch your child doesn't like or that makes your child feel uncomfortable. Talking with your child about unsafe and unwanted touches helps protect him or her against sexually abusive touch.

Talking about unwanted touches is particularly important. What touches are unwanted can be different for each child, and a child's feelings about a touch can change over time. A touch your child used to like may now be a touch he or she doesn't want. Your child is also at an age where he or she may begin to experiment with romantic touches. Because of this, it's important to talk with your child about what kinds of touches are or aren't okay in your family.

Use the **family safety plan** activity in the Lesson 3 Home Link to have this conversation with your child. As you and your child talk, keep in mind the following questions:

- In your family, is it okay for friends and relatives to hug and kiss your child?
- In your family, what touches are appropriate and inappropriate between your child and his or her friends?
- How will the way adult family members or older siblings touch your child change as he or she grows older?

Talking with your child in an open, honest way about these topics will help protect him or her from sexual abuse. If your child understands what types of touches are not okay in your family, he or she will be able to recognize sexually abusive touch and report it.

Make sure to join **SecondStep.org** with the Activation Key **CPU4 FAMI LYG4** to find information on childhood sexual development and more resources to help you protect your child against unsafe, unwanted, and sexually abusive touch.

Sincerely,

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**SecondStep.org** Activation Key:  
**CPU4 FAMI LYG4**

Dear Family,

As you know, your child is learning skills that will help keep him or her safe from dangerous or abusive situations. Your child is also learning rules to follow to stay safe. One rule your child is learning is the Private Body Parts Rule:

Private body parts are private. No one should ever:

1. Touch yours, except a doctor or nurse
2. Ask to see yours, except a doctor or nurse
3. Make you look at his or hers, or anyone else's

And never touch anyone else's.

Learning the Private Body Parts Rule will help your child recognize sexually abusive situations so he or she can refuse to participate and tell an adult. Children often find it hard to tell adults about sexual abuse because they are unsure of the words to use. You can help your child stay safe by teaching him or her the correct (anatomical) words for private body parts—for boys: penis, scrotum, and buttocks; for girls: breasts, vagina, vulva, and buttocks. Knowing the correct words helps children talk about private body parts in a natural way and report sexual abuse if it happens.

Using the correct names for private body parts with your child can be uncomfortable or awkward at first. Make sure to join **SecondStep.org** with the Activation Key **CPU4 FAMI LYG4** to find helpful tips about talking with your child about private body parts.

Sincerely,

**Go online today**

**SecondStep.org** Activation Key:  
**CPU4 FAMI LYG4**

Dear Family,

Your child recently completed the *Second Step* Child Protection Unit. In this unit, your child learned important safety skills that will help him or her stay safe from dangerous or abusive situations.

Now that the unit is over, it's very important to keep talking with your child about unsafe or sexually abusive situations and how to handle them. These can feel like difficult conversations to have. To help make them easier, you can use *Hannah Keeps Herself Safe*, an online interactive story, as a more comfortable way to talk with your child about what to do in unsafe or abusive situations. As part of Home Link 6, your child will practice what he or she has learned in the Child Protection Unit by helping you explore Hannah's story on [SecondStep.org](http://SecondStep.org). Directions for accessing the story are on Home Link 6 or online in the Families section of [SecondStep.org](http://SecondStep.org).

Make sure to join **SecondStep.org** with the Activation Key **CPU4 FAMI LYG4** to see *Hannah Keeps Herself Safe* and many other resources to help teach your child about personal safety.

Sincerely,

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