

**Parent-Child Safe Environment Scenarios**

**Tips for a young child answering the phone:**

1. Never disclose personal information such as a name or address
2. Never disclose that a parent is not at home.

**Dad:** How would you answer the phone, Anna?

**Anna:** I'd say, "Hello".

**Dad:** What if the person calling asked: "Who is this?"

**Anna:** I'd tell them: "Anna Miller".

**Dad:** No, Anna. It's important that you never give out your name or address to someone. Instead tell the person: "I'll go get my dad."

**Anna:** Why?

**Dad:** It's important to be careful who we give out personal information like your name or address to. Always talk to me first about giving out personal information to others.

**Anna:** What if we know them?

**Dad:** If we know them, they should either already know that information or you can tell them that your parent can talk with them about that.

**Anna:** That's a lot to remember.

**Dad:** You are really smart. Let's practice a few times.

**Anna:** That should be fun.

**Dad:** Fun and a way of learning how to stay safe.

**Tips for all children:**

1. Never accept gifts from anyone including relatives, friends, teachers, neighbors, or authority figures without a parent's permission.
2. Don't "Hang out" with adults. "Hang out" with kids your own age.
3. Keep no secrets.

Parent: I will never be mad at you if you tell me someone did or tried to do something that was inappropriate, that made you feel uncomfortable, or that tried to harm you in any way.

**Peter:** Hey, mom, look at this cool video game Jack gave me!

**Mom:** Oh, yeah, so who's Jack?

**Peter:** Jack's one of the guys I hang out with on weekends.

**Mom:** So he's from your middle school?

**Peter:** Oh, no, he's some young adult dude who's got his own apartment.

**Mom:** How did you meet him?

**Peter:** A classmate took me over to his apartment about a month ago to show me all the cool video games that he let's kids come over to play with.

**Mom:** Are there lots of kids at his house at the same time or are you ever alone?

**Peter:** Both but mostly it's just me and him. I like it that way because he let's me play with any of his games, and he's easy to talk with. Actually he told me not to tell you that he gave me the game - that it would be our little secret. Are you mad at me?

**Mom:** Well, Peter, he does sound like a lot of fun, and I am not mad at you. Actually I am glad you could come and tell me this. Do you remember the rules we

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have about accepting gifts from people, even relatives, and visiting people's houses without first checking with me first? It has to do with safety.

**Peter:** Sorry, I didn't check with you first, but Jack, well, he's an okay guy.

**Mom:** I want you to take me to meet Jack. You will need to return the video game. I will need to tell him that it is not okay for you to spend time at his house - with or without your other friends. I am just not comfortable with that arrangement. You have plenty of friends at school and at church your own age. You will need to work out spending time with them. I am clear about this.

**Peter:** Yes, mom.

### Tips for a teen:

1. No one has the right to make sexual comments about a person.
2. If someone makes a child feel uncomfortable, the child should tell the person and then the parents immediately. The parent should reassure the child that the concern will be addressed.
3. A child has the right to challenge any inappropriate touch or improper comment.
4. A child should avoid being alone with adults.
5. If there is a reoccurring incident, the child should report the incident to the parent and to the person in authority (supervisor such as the principal).

**Molly:** Mom, I am going to quit softball!

**Mom:** Drop softball? I thought you really liked playing. What happened?

**Molly:** After the game yesterday, I took a shower in the girls' locker room. When I was getting dressed, the coach, Ms. Rummel, came over to tell me that I had played a good game. Then she put her hand on my shoulder and commented that my body was developing nicely too, especially my breasts.

**Mom:** How did you respond?

**Molly:** I was so surprised by her comment about my body that I froze and did nothing. It made me feel very uncomfortable. I grabbed my stuff and headed home. I still feel uneasy about what happened to the point that I don't want to be on the team anymore.

**Mom:** Thanks for telling me about this. I know you are really troubled by what happened. I will set up a meeting with the principal to discuss this.

**Molly:** But that might get me and Ms. Rummel in trouble. The other girls might hear about it and blame me if anything happens to Ms. Rummel. In fact, maybe Ms. Rummel didn't mean anything by it.

**Mom:** Maybe you are right, but this is a concern that needs to be addressed. Whether or not you choose to continue playing softball, the comment about your body was inappropriate. Ms. Rummel needs to be clear about that. If you decide to continue to play, do your best to avoid being alone with Ms. Rummel. If she says anything threatening or suggestive again, I want you to tell me right away. I am proud of the way you handled the concern.

- Scenarios and material were adapted from *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse, A Parent's Guide*, Mary A. Lentz, Esq., Peter Li, Inc., 2003.