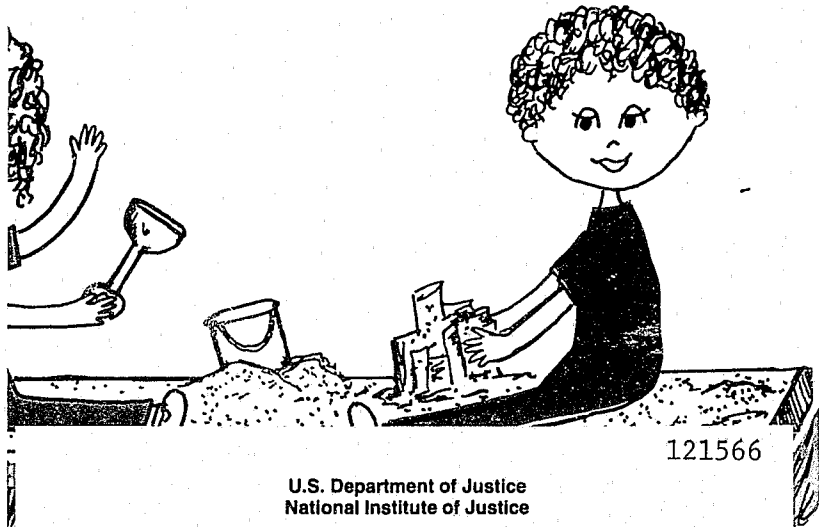


SHARE THE SECRET

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U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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Parents

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Sexual abuse of children is probably one of the most alarming and distressing problems parents face today. Boys and girls from all races and socio-economic backgrounds are equally at risk. Most sexual abuse occurs in the child's own home and with a person the child (and the parents) knows and trusts.

It would be very difficult for parents to oversee all of their children's activities in an attempt to protect them from sexual abuse. That is why TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO PROTECT THEMSELVES IS VITAL. Inasmuch as you would teach a child how to safely cross the street or how to act if a fire were to break out, this sexual abuse prevention training would be viewed as a continuance of the child's personal safety awareness program.

Sexual abuse prevention training cannot be left to the school systems alone. Parental involvement is imperative if you expect your child to feel comfortable reporting any unusual situations.

Many books have been written to help parents facilitate discussion and teach children about sexual abuse prevention. Your local library and book stores may provide additional resources for information on sexual abuse prevention and intervention.

Originally the *Share The Secret* stories were written as skits with presenters using two dolls (Patricia and Arthur) to facilitate a group discussion with the children. The stories have since been revised and developed into book form so that parents and other educators could use them as well.

You will feel more comfortable with the stories if you review and think about them in advance. It may be more effective for learning purposes to read them to your child at separate times. There are STOP signs at critical points where discussion is suggested. Use this time to answer questions your child may have and to review what has happened in the story thus far.

If there are any questions or comments regarding the stories, please do not hesitate to contact Haven.

Respectfully,
Sharon Plezia

For children who are younger or have shorter attention spans, you may want to read only the shorter version of the story which is printed directly under each picture. Three and four year olds need to learn what to do as much as older children, and the simpler presentation allows them to do that on a level that is more suited to them.



**Help Against Violent
Encounters Now**

Written by: Sharon Plezia
Illustrated by: Suzanne Thomas
Printed by: Harrington Printing
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UNITED WAY

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This is Patricia and Arthur. They are brother and sister and they were born on the same day. Do you know what that means? They are twins! They're five years old and they both go to kindergarten.

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ACQUISITIONS
1

Patricia goes in the morning and Arthur goes in the afternoon. When Arthur gets home from school, he and Patricia have an afternoon snack at their special snack table in the kitchen. Today, Patricia looked upset when Arthur arrived home.

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENED....

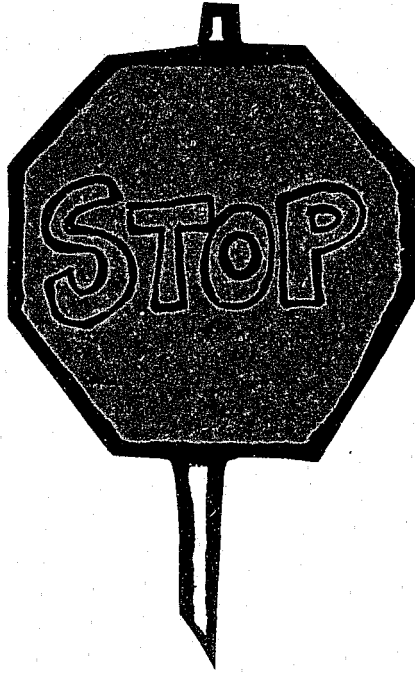
Arthur looking concerned said, "Hi Patricia. Hey, you look like you've seen a ghost. What's the matter?"

"Well, today mom and I went shopping at the mall. Mom was looking at boring stuff, like lamp shades and lights. I looked across the aisle and noticed that the Cabbage Patch dolls were right on the next aisle over, so I wandered over to look at them. Before I knew it, I realized that Mom was nowhere around. I went back to the lamp department and looked down each aisle, and then decided I needed some help.

A man and a woman who were looking at Cabbage Patches at the same time I was, walked up to me and said, "Are you looking for your mom?"



Patricia said, "Today mom and I went to the mall. While she was looking at lamps, I went over to look at the dolls. Then I couldn't find mom anywhere!"



Let's stop for a minute and talk about what happened. Patricia got separated from her mom at the mall. What do you think she was thinking? How would you feel if this happened to you? What would you do?

Let's see what happened...

What do you
think Patricia
should do?

"Boy, you must have been scared and worried!" said Arthur.

"Yes, I sure was worried, but not scared at first, because the woman reminded me of Aunt Mary, and she looked very kind."

"I explained to them that when I get separated from my mom, I need to find a clerk, a store manager, or a policeman to help me. Then I started to say 'Thank you anyway..,' when suddenly she grabbed my hand and started pulling me away with her. She said, 'Come on, I'll bet your mom is out in the parking lot waiting for you. Let's go see.' She still had my hand and was pulling me toward the door."

Arthur said, "You know you're not supposed to go with someone you don't know Patricia - she's a stranger, even if she did LOOK like Aunt Mary."

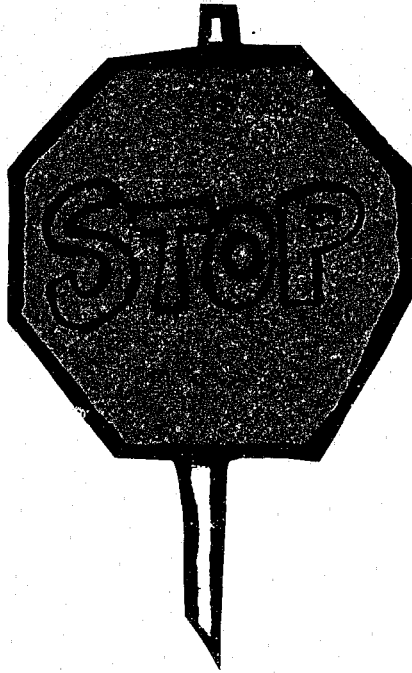
"I was scared at first," explained Patricia. "I didn't know what to do, but I knew I didn't want to go with her. That's why I started yelling and fighting to GET AWAY. I used my EMERGENCY YELL, and I stomped on the top of her foot until she let go."



"A man and a woman came up to me and asked if I was lost. The woman reminded me of Aunt Mary," said Patricia.

"Before I knew it, she took me by the hand. She said that mom was probably in the parking lot.

"I knew I didn't want to go with her, so I yelled very loudly and stomped on her foot until the woman let go."



Let's stop for a minute and talk about this. This woman, who seemed helpful at first, started to force Patricia to go with her out to the parking lot.

Did Patricia know the woman or man?

Is it OK to go with people you don't know?

What do you suppose Patricia was thinking when the woman took her by the hand? How was she feeling?

What would you do if this happened to you?

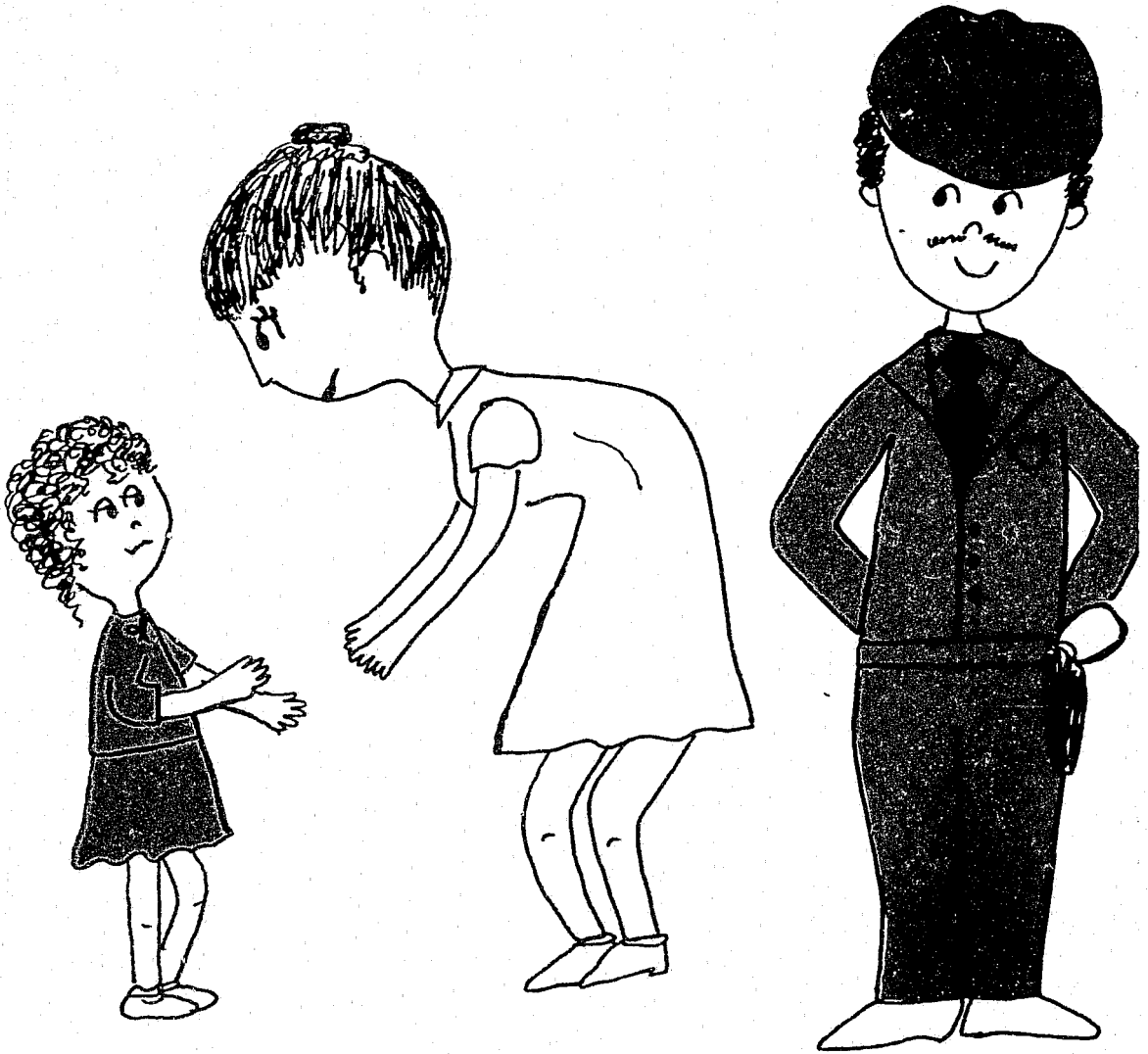
Is it OK for Patricia
to go with this woman?
What would you do?



"When I stopped looking worried and started yelling and fighting back, the woman let go and she and the man started running toward the door. I ran the other way and saw Mom rushing toward me with a policeman. She hugged me for along time and kept asking me if I was alright."

"You were really brave for fighting back and getting away so fast," said Arthur, "What happened next?"

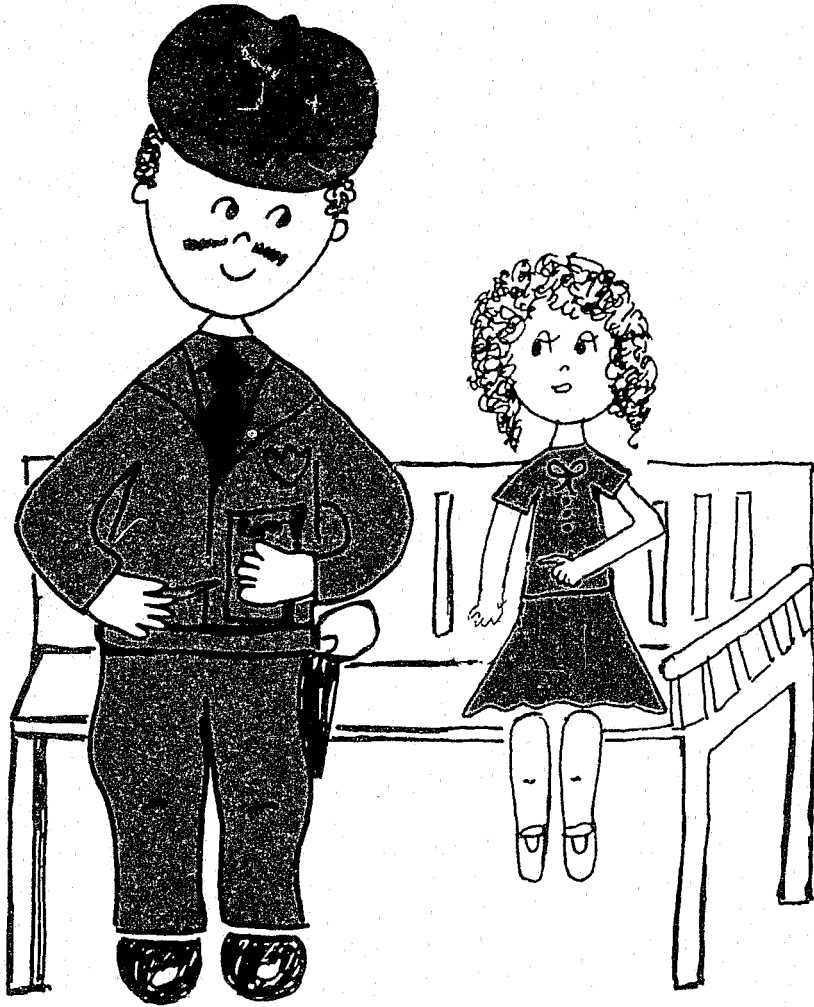
"We all raced back to find the man and woman, but they were gone. The policeman asked me if I could tell him what the people looked like. The lady was easy because her face and teeny brown curls looked like Aunt Mary's, but the man was harder. All I could remember was that he was a lot shorter than Daddy and that he was wearing a dark blue jacket and a baseball cap."



"Mom heard me yell and ran toward me. She was with a policeman who was helping her look for me. Mom was so happy to see me that she hugged me for a long time."

Noticing what the person looks like is very important. Can you tell me why?

A person who tries this, doesn't just try it with one child, he or she usually tries it with other kids, too.



"Then the policeman asked me what the people looked like and tried to find them, but they were gone."

What would you remember about a person?

Arthur, proud of Patricia, said, "Boy, you really remembered a lot! I would have been so scared I probably would have gone blank."

"Yep," Patricia said proudly, "and the policeman wrote it all down and said that if I thought of anything else, to call him at the station. He even gave me the police telephone number."

"That was really a horrible time for you Patricia, but you sure knew the right thing to do. I'm so glad you're safe!"

ARTHUR GAVE PATRICIA A BIG HUG!



"I'm so glad you're home and safe now!"

THE END

Remember, this doesn't happen very often, but if anything like this ever happens to you, you will know what to do.

If anyone tries to hurt or scare you, or make you do something you feel is wrong, you have the right to:

Say, "NO" or "STOP", like you really mean it!

If they don't stop, use your EMERGENCY YELL for help.

GET AWAY and find someone with whom you feel safe.

TELL SOMEONE you trust and who can help you.

REMEMBER, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT

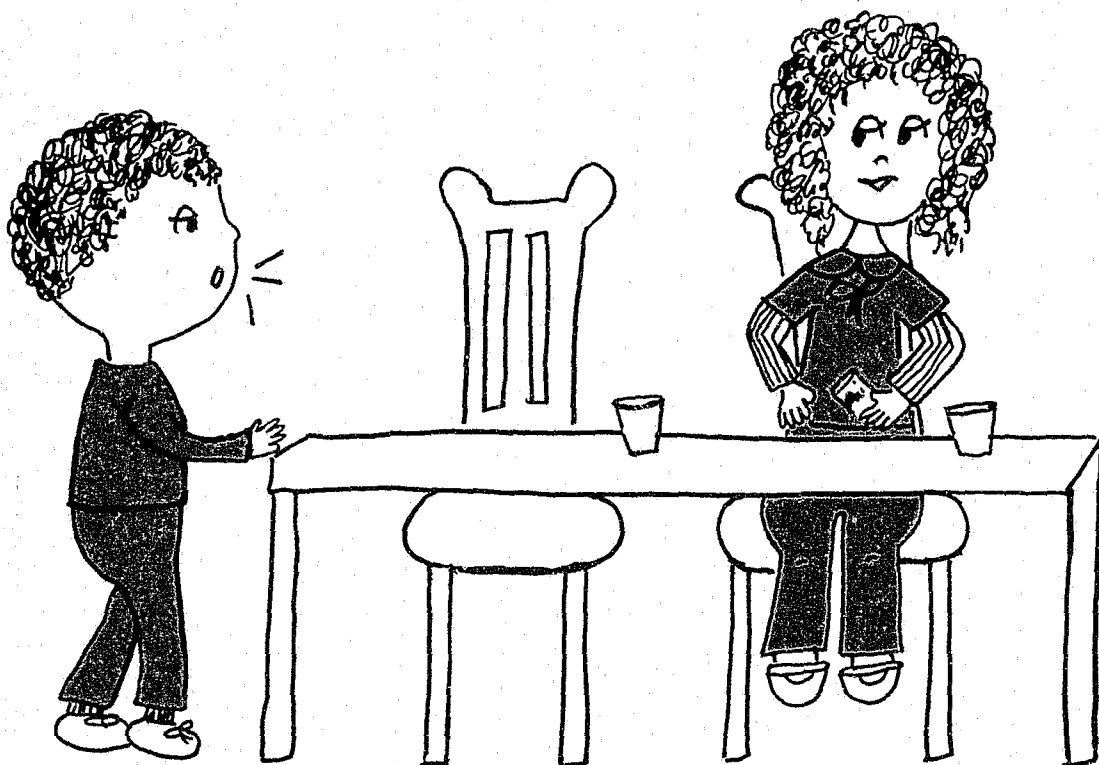
if something like this ever happens to you.

Most people wouldn't try to hurt or scare kids. Most people are kind and care for other people, but we never take chances by going with people we don't know. Patricia knew that and she wants you to know too!

PATRICIA AND ARTHUR



PART 2



Remember how Patricia and Arthur like to have a snack at their special snack table when Arthur gets home from school in the afternoon? Well, today Arthur was late and Patricia was getting upset. Let's see what happened . . .

Arthur seemed out of breath as he plopped down in his chair.

"Hi Arthur!" said Patricia, "I was about ready to eat my raisins without you - you're late!"

"Sorry, but I was on my way home and Uncle Butch saw me and called, 'Hey Arthur, come on over for a minute. Ginger had puppies last week, and are they cute!'

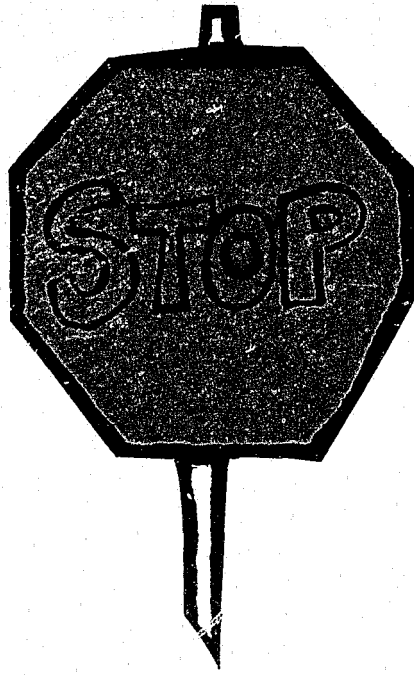
"Well you know how much I love baby animals . . . I just couldn't say no."

"You know you're supposed to come home from school first and ask Mom," reminded Patricia.

"I know," said Arthur, "but I thought it would be alright just this once, and only for a minute. Besides, we visit Uncle Butch all the time."



"Uncle Butch asked me to come and see Ginger's new puppies. I thought it would be alright just this once and only for a minute."



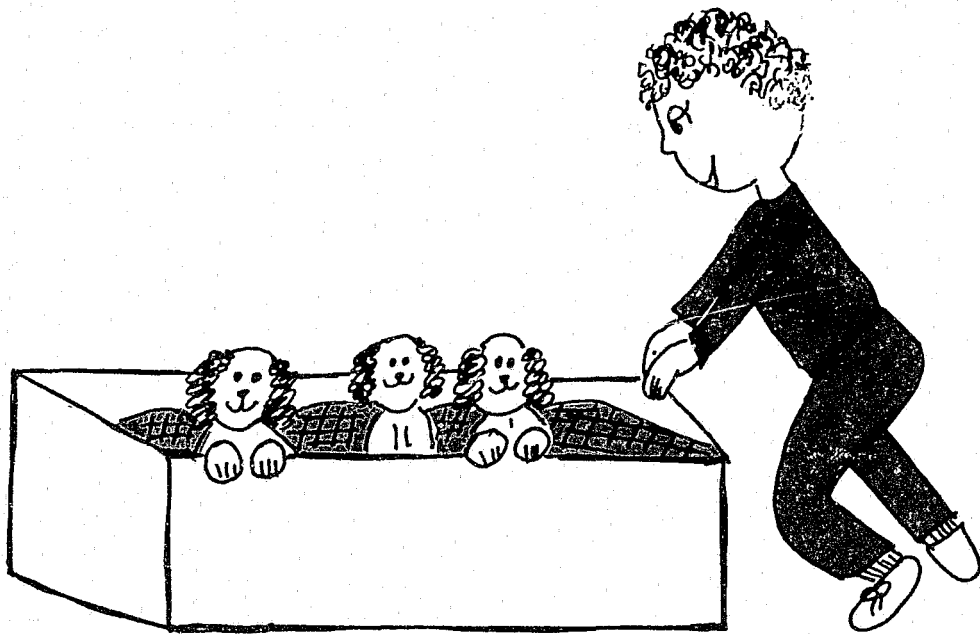
Let's stop for a minute. Arthur was on his way home from school. The rule in their house is that you come straight home first - then you may go visit if that's OK with Mom or Dad.

What do you think Arthur was thinking when Butch asked him over to see the puppies?

How do you think he felt?

What would you have done if you were Arthur?

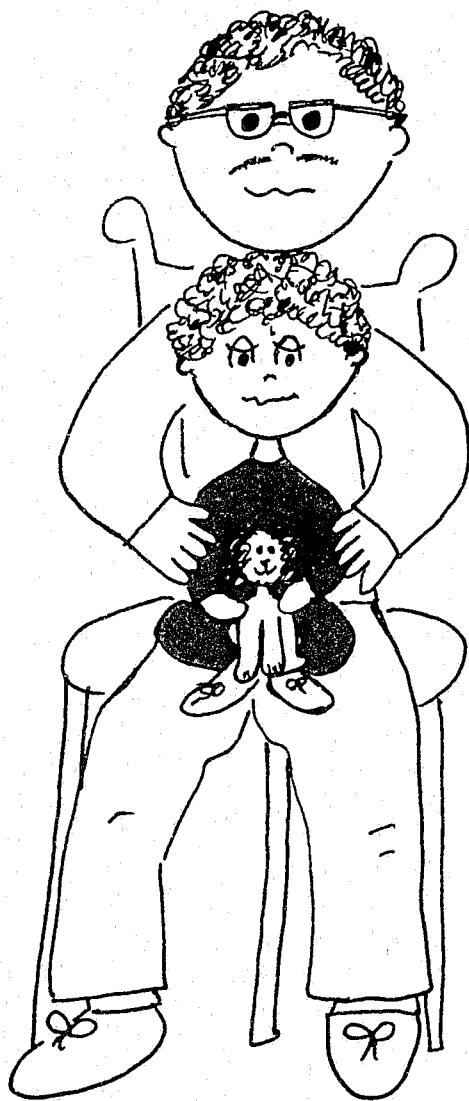
What is the rule at your house when you want to visit after school?



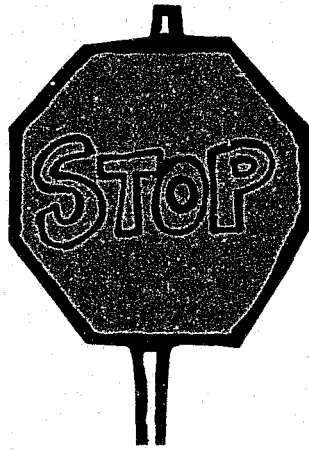
"Well, I told him OK, but just for a minute. The puppies were in a box with a blanket inside. I counted seven of them. They were so small and cute! I was petting them and talking to them. Then Uncle Butch said, 'If you sit on my lap, you can hold a puppy.'"

The puppies were so small and cute, and Arthur wanted to hold one. Uncle Butch said he could if Arthur would sit on his lap.

"Well, you know we sit on Uncle Butch's lap all the time when he comes over or when we visit him. So I climbed up on his lap to hold a puppy very carefully," Arthur continued. "Before I knew it, Uncle Butch had his hand rubbing my stomach, under my belt. He said, 'We're special friends, aren't we Arthur?' I said yes, but I felt really weird 'cause he kept rubbing me. He said, 'Because we are special friends, we can touch each other like this and it can feel real good. We can have our own special secret.'"



When Arthur sat on Uncle Butch's lap, Uncle Butch purposely touched Arthur under his belt and told Arthur not to tell. This would be their secret.



Let's stop for a minute and talk about this.

Something very serious just happened. Uncle Butch touched Arthur in his private zone.

The PRIVATE ZONE on your body is the part that is covered by your bathing suit.

Do you think this is OK?

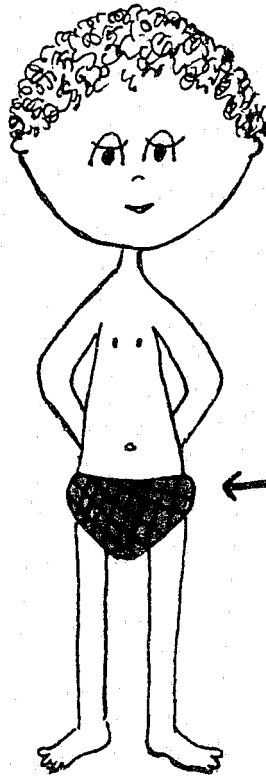
Is this a good secret? Should he tell?

What do you think Arthur was thinking when that happened?

What would you have done?

Can you think of any good reasons for adults touching children in their PRIVATE ZONES? (changing a baby's diaper, doctor checking a person for a medical reason, or helping a smaller person wash in the bathtub)

Should Arthur keep this secret?



Remember...The PRIVATE ZONE on your body is the part that is covered by your bathing suit.

It is NOT OK for adults to touch kids in their PRIVATE ZONE without a real good reason.

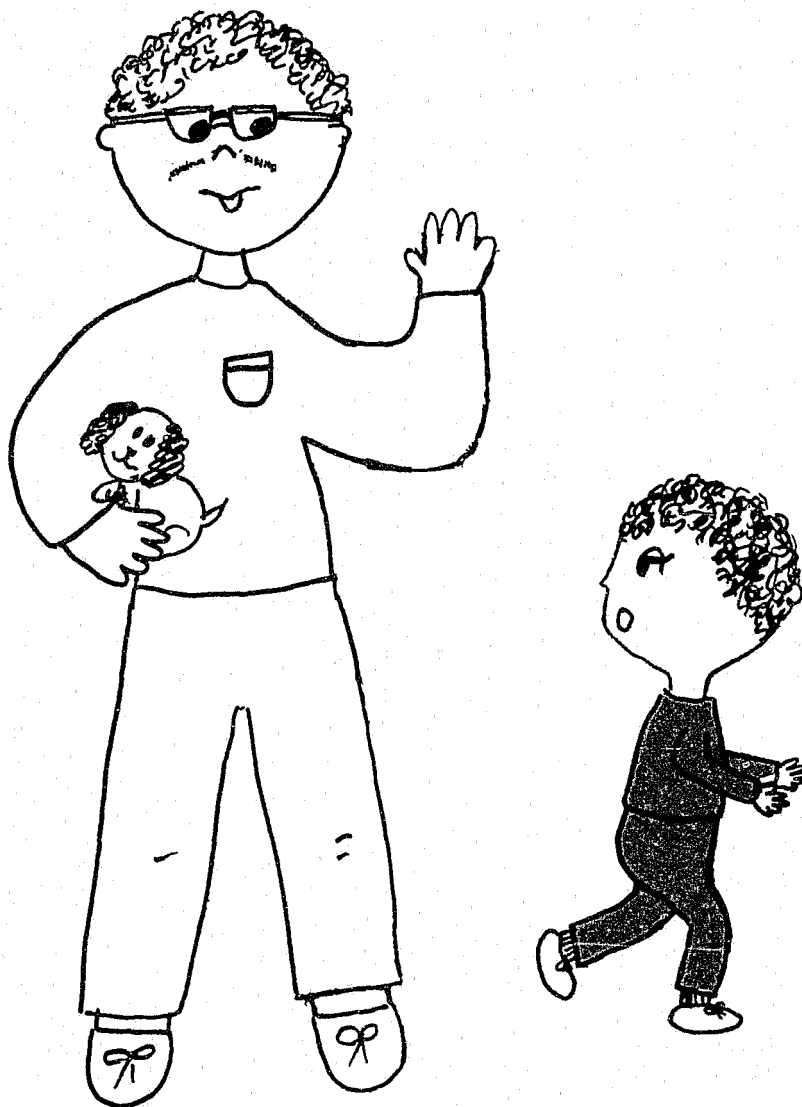
Arthur said, "I didn't know what to say, it happened so fast, and I just wanted to get out of there. So I said, 'OK, but my mom's expecting me - I gotta go!' and I ran home as fast as I could. So, Patricia, don't tell anybody — I told Uncle Butch I would keep it a secret, and it's really my fault because I should have come home and asked Mom before going over there."

"What a minute, Arthur", said Patricia. "Mom and Dad told us that secrets that hurt or scare us should not be kept to ourselves. They want to be told! This is not a good secret. You need to tell so Uncle Butch doesn't try this with you again."

Are there any other reasons Arthur should tell?

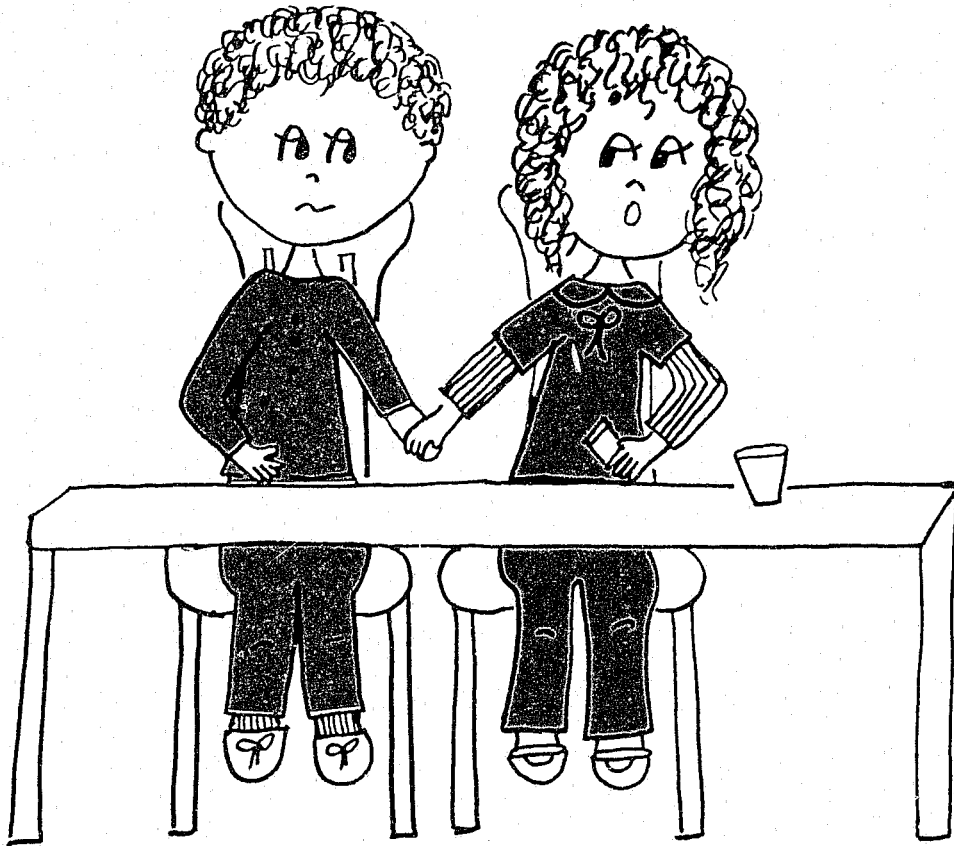
"This is not a good secret. You need to tell so Uncle Butch doesn't try this with you again!" states Patricia.

Do you agree with Patricia?



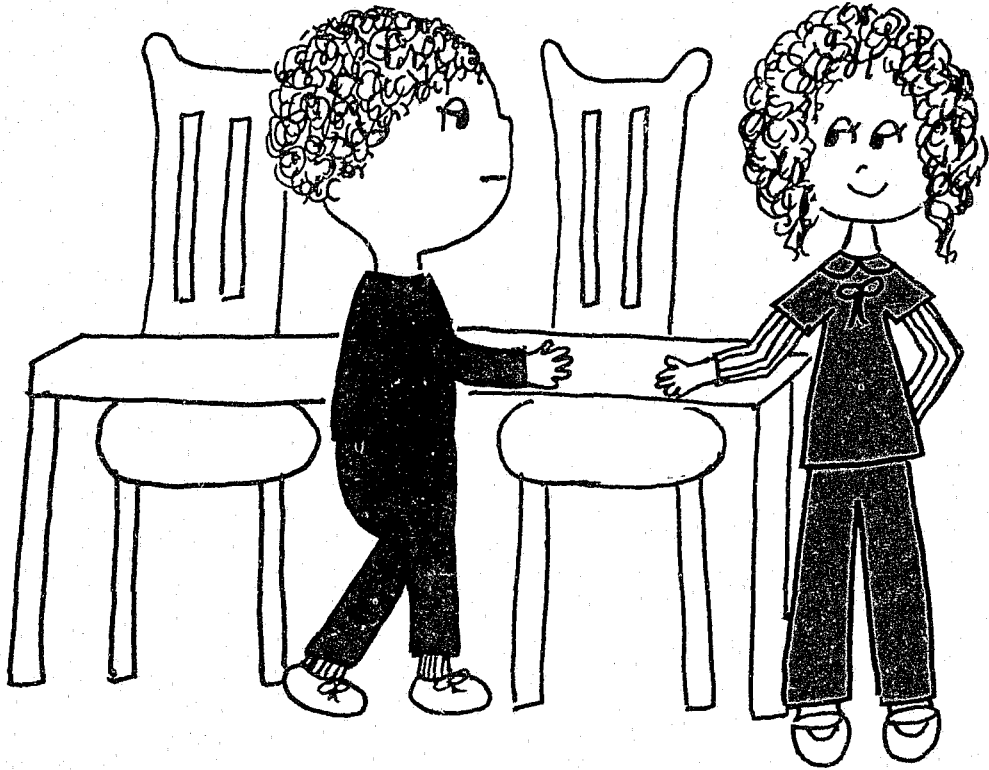
What do you think Arthur should do?

Arthur said, "If I tell Mom and Dad, I'll probably get in trouble for not coming straight home from school, but you're right - they'd want to know about Uncle Butch touching my private area, and now I know that it wasn't my fault."

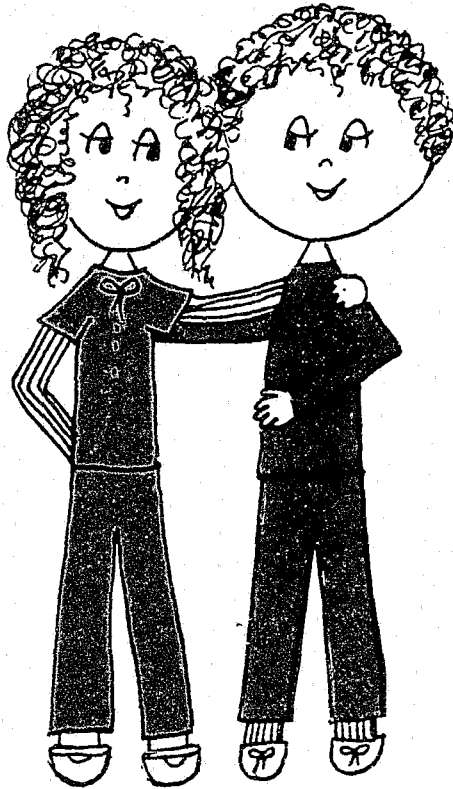


Arthur understands that it wasn't his fault that Uncle Butch touched him in a way that felt uncomfortable.

"That's right, Arthur - it wasn't your fault," said Patricia, would you like it if I went with you to tell Mom and Dad? We could go together."



"That would be great! Let's go now and get it over with.
Thanks, sis!"



Arthur and Patricia decided to tell Mom and Dad together.
Arthur feels a whole lot better, and gives Patricia a big hug.

THE END.

Let's review. If anyone tries to hurt or scare you, or makes you do something you feel is wrong, you have the right to:

- Say "No" or "Stop", like you really mean it!
- If they don't stop use your EMERGENCY YELL for help.
- GET AWAY and find someone you trust.
- TELL SOMEONE you trust and who can help you.
- REMEMBER, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT IF
SOMETHING LIKE THIS EVER HAPPENS TO YOU.

Also, remember that even though most people wouldn't try to hurt or scare kids, we don't take chances by going with people we don't know, and, like Arthur, we don't keep secrets that hurt or scare us.

If you need further information regarding this book or to order additional copies, please contact:

HAVEN

Attention: Patricia and Arthur Book

P.O. Box 787

Pontiac, Michigan 48056

Books are also available in Spanish.

HAVEN welcomes your feedback on this book. Please let us know what was useful and what we might improve. We would like to hear from you!

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