

## KEEP and SPEAK Secrets Lesson

### Background information about KEEP and SPEAK secrets

An important component of child personal safety is helping children distinguish between safe secrets they can keep and unsafe secrets they need to tell to a safe adult. Many dangerous situations for children involve some element of secrecy. Sexual offenders often use ploys to manipulate children into keeping abuse a secret.

KEEP and SPEAK secrets, a strategy in the Kids in the Know safety program, was created to address the issue of sexual abuse. The intent of teaching this strategy is to disrupt dangerous situations children may encounter and to encourage disclosing inappropriate touching. It is important to help children distinguish between safe secrets they can keep and unsafe secrets which they should tell to a safe adult.



**Together with your child read each scenario and have your child decide whether they think it is a safe or unsafe secret. Discuss how they determined their answer.**

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| <p><b>1.</b> The teacher asked two students to stay in for recess to help decorate the classroom for a surprise party in the afternoon. The teacher asked the students to keep the surprise a secret.</p>                   | <p><input type="radio"/> KEEP SECRET (safe)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> SPEAK SECRET (unsafe)</p> |
| <p><b>2.</b> Zander was walking home from school when an older boy walked up behind him and hit him. The older boy told Zander not to tell anyone or he would hurt him again.</p>   | <p><input type="radio"/> KEEP SECRET (safe)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> SPEAK SECRET (unsafe)</p> |
| <p><b>3.</b> Alex's aunt was making a special anniversary dinner for Alex's parents and told Alex to keep it a secret.</p>  | <p><input type="radio"/> KEEP SECRET (safe)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> SPEAK SECRET (unsafe)</p> |
| <p><b>4.</b> Hosea was play wrestling with his friend's older brother on Friday. He touched Hosea in a way that made Hosea feel uncomfortable. The older brother scared Hosea. He told Hosea not to tell anyone.</p>        | <p><input type="radio"/> KEEP SECRET (safe)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> SPEAK SECRET (unsafe)</p> |
| <p><b>5.</b> Sophie was playing with her best friend and saw bruises on her friend's arms and legs. Her friend told Sophie her father gets mad sometimes and hurts her. She asked Sophie to promise not to tell anyone.</p> | <p><input type="radio"/> KEEP SECRET (safe)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> SPEAK SECRET (unsafe)</p> |

6. Dylan's brother is scared to go to the dentist. His dad asked Dylan to promise not to tell his brother about the loud noises some of the machines make.
7. One of Jasminder's neighbours asked her if he could take pictures of her. He said he would give her candy, if she didn't tell anyone.
8. Mason's bus driver said he'd take Mason to the candy store on Tuesday after he dropped all the other kids off. He told Mason that he would only take him if he doesn't tell his parents about it.
9. Emma's dad is planning a surprise birthday party for her mom. He told her not to tell her mom.
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