

SAMPLE Take-Home Letter 1: The *Talking About Touching* Program

Dear Family,

Our class will soon begin using *Talking About Touching: A Personal Safety Curriculum*. This program teaches children skills that will help them keep safe from dangerous or abusive situations. Children will also learn how to ask for help when they need it.

Over the next few weeks, you will receive a series of letters that provide information about how you can help your child learn and practice safety rules taught in the classroom lessons. Children learn more about safety and are more likely to follow safety rules when they have multiple opportunities to practice and talk about safety with their family. I'd like to encourage you to help your child learn and practice safety rules.

Optional sentences:

1. We will have a Family Education Night on _____ (day, date, and time). At that time, you can learn more about the program and how you can help teach your child about safety rules.
2. The video *What Do I Say Now? How to Help Protect Your Child from Sexual Abuse* was produced for parents and caregivers of young children. If you are unable to attend the Family Education Night, you can check out the video from school to watch at home. It will show you how to teach and reinforce safety skills taught in the lessons.
3. If you **do not** wish your child to participate in this program, please complete, sign, and return this letter by _____ (date).

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

I **do not** wish for my child, _____, to participate in the *Talking About Touching* program.

Parent/Caregiver signature _____

Dear Family,

The first lessons in the *Talking About Touching* curriculum emphasize the importance of following safety rules. You can help your child learn to be safe by talking about and practicing safety rules at home. I hope these suggestions will be useful to you.

Car safety. Our first lesson focuses on car safety. Children learn about sitting in a booster seat and wearing a seatbelt. Ask your child to sing or teach you the "Booster Seat" song. Booster seats are essential to your child's safety. Children outgrow forward-facing child safety seats when they reach approximately 40 lbs. From this point until children weigh 80 lbs and are about 4'9" tall, they must be properly buckled in booster seats, which lift them so that adult seatbelts fit them securely and safely. Without booster seats, an adult lap belt rides up over a small child's stomach, and the shoulder belt cuts across a child's neck. In a crash, this can cause serious or fatal injuries. Child safety seats with boosters are effective in protecting children in crashes. All children under age 12 should sit properly restrained in the back seat.

Traffic safety. In our traffic safety lesson, children learn to look in *all* directions before crossing the street. Whenever you go for a walk with your child, you can talk about and practice walking safely in your neighborhood.

Fire safety. Ask your child what she or he learned about fire safety. Ask what she or he would do if another child wanted to play with matches. The response children learn in class is to say "No" and then tell you about it.

Gun safety. Ask your child what he or she learned about gun safety. If you own guns, please remember to always keep them locked up.

Be sure to congratulate your child on learning and following these safety rules. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

