



The Right Touch

Sandy Kleven

Jody Bergsma, Illustrator

Illumination Arts Publishing (April 1998)

Hardcover \$15.95 (32pp)

978-0-935699-10-4

It's a sad fact that young children need to be educated about the many evils lurking in their lives, including sexual abuse. This book addresses the subject in a straightforward, candid manner. Jimmy's mother tells him a story about a young girl who follows a neighbor into his house on the pretense of seeing some kittens. The girl begins to feel uncomfortable, and when the man tries to put his hands down her panties, she runs right home and tells her parents. Jimmy and his mom have a frank discussion explaining when it is and isn't OK to be touched on one's "private parts." Their discussion makes clear to the reader what to do if such a "touching problem" were to occur. The pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations are populated by round-faced, big-eyed people and fluffy, cuddly animals. While this cartoon style seems too cutesy for such a serious subject, it may help diffuse the uncomfortable nature of the text. This is a good first book to share with preschool and early elementary aged children on the sensitive subject of child sexual abuse.

(July / August 1998)

Disclosure: This article is not an endorsement, but a review. The author of this book provided free copies of the book to have their book reviewed by a professional reviewer. No fee was paid by the author for this review. Foreword Reviews only recommends books that we love. Foreword Magazine, Inc. is disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.