

The Right Touch

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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.

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