

HOTLINE ROLE PLAY

End Child Abuse Long Beach

www.EndChildAbuseLB.org

****** Note: This situation is based on the experiences of real children. Names and details are changed to respect the privacy of children and their families helped by the *Child Abuse Response Team*.

******* It's just before bedtime; Irene is sitting at the kitchen table, looking very unhappy. Mom walks by.

MOM: Irene, are you ok? You look sad.

IRENE: Oh, I don't know.

MOM: You can tell me if something is wrong. It helps to talk.

IRENE: We had some people from ALIVE today talk to us about kids being touched in their private places.

MOM: What did you think about the things they talked about? Do you want to talk to me about what you learned?

IRENE: They said that when kids are touched in their private parts, that person did something wrong that hurts children. They say to "Break the Silence" by telling someone safe –a Mom, Dad, teacher, friend or someone who can help.

MOM: Hmm.... That's true. If someone tries to touch you in your private parts, you should yell and fight to get away as much as possible! And then tell someone right away.

IRENE: Yes, they said that. They said it's never our fault when someone touches us and it's important to talk about it.

MOM: That's true, it IS Important to yell, scream, make noise, scream NO or help me, and to get away if you can.

IRENE: But they said even if we say it is OK, it is never OK for anyone to touch you, and it is against the law.

MOM: Hmm... so is this what is making you sad?

IRENE: Well, Ralph treats me nice. He seemed like your best boyfriend ever and I really like the bicycle he gave me.

MOM: But it sounds like something is wrong. Is there something else about Ralph?

IRENE: Well, while you were at the store, he touched me in my private parts. He said "I like you so much I am going to love you."

MOM: Oh Irene, I am so sorry honey. Thank you for telling me. I love you and want to always keep you safe. (Hug)

IRENE: Well, he didn't really hurt me but I didn't like it. I felt scared and kinda creepy in my tummy, like I was sick. He said this is what people do when they love each other.

MOM: It was not ok for Ralph to do that to you and what he said was not true about love.

IRENE: When I said I don't like this very much, he said "Don't tell your Mom or you'll get into trouble." I was scared. I have been thinking about it all the time, even at school.

MOM: Oh, Irene I am so sorry- no wonder you got a "D" on your math test yesterday.

IRENE: I have been thinking about what he said and did to me. I think about it all the time. I can't even do my school work.

MOM: Thank you for telling me what happened to you. I am so sorry and I will make sure it stops.

IRENE: Last weekend when you were at the store again, he touched me, and had me touch him. When I said I don't like this, he said "If you tell your mom, I will get real mad - you don't want me to get mad at your mom, do you?"

MOM: Sounds like he really scared you.

IRENE: I was scared. But today, the people from ALIVE gave us these cards. There are telephone numbers to call when we need help. Let's call the "child abuse hotline" and tell them what happened. They will know what to do. We don't even have to give them our names.

MOM: Yes, I will call them before Ralph gets here.

******* Later, the police came and arrested Ralph. Irene was taken to the Long Beach Community Hospital for a medical exam to see if everything was okay. The people at the hospital were very nice. When Irene and her mom got home, they snuggled in bed and talked.

MOM: You are safe. Ralph is in jail and he will never come to our house again. I'm sorry I ever met him.

IRENE: I'm glad he's gone. Do I have to give back the bicycle?

MOM: No, you don't have to worry about that.

IRENE: Good. I like the bike, but I don't like Ralph

MOM: One of the people at the hospital said we should think about having you see a counselor. Would you like to do that?

IRENE: What good is talking?

MOM: The counselor and you can talk about how you feel, and about what happened to you. About what Ralph did. You can tell them how you feel about it. Sometimes you might play games or draw pictures there. It will help you to feel better.

IRENE: I think I would like that - yes.

MOM: OK. I will call them tomorrow to make an appointment.

IRENE: Thank you mom. Good night -I love you.

MOM: Goodnight Irene - I love you too.