

# LESSON 6

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TATTLING & REPORTING



### Today's Lesson: Lesson 6

In today's lesson, children learned the difference between **reporting** and **tattling**. **Reporting** is something that involves a threat to safety, while **tattling** is a complaint about someone else's behavior that doesn't involve safety. If children are unsure if a situation is safe or unsafe, they should always report it to a **Grown-Up Buddy** until they get the **2 H's: Heard and Helped**.

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### Human Trafficking Prevention

Throughout the *Safer, Smarter Kids* lessons, students learn about the tools they need to communicate their need for help when necessary. In **Lesson 6**, students learn the difference between **tattling** and **reporting**. In this lesson, the human trafficking prevention components help students understand the importance of **reporting** when they are in an **unsafe situation**, have an **unsafe secret**, or are being influenced by an unsafe person. Students have created a **Trusted Triangle** and selected the **Grown-Up Buddies** they know they can talk to any time about anything; they must report any time they feel unsafe or are in an unsafe situation by communicating with their **Grown-Up Buddies**.

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### Caregiver Connection

An essential step in a child's development is knowing when to report to an adult. No one likes **tattling**, yet determining when and what to report is rarely discussed. This leads to confusion, especially as children struggle with moral development. Create different scenarios for your child to reinforce the difference between **reporting** and **tattling**.

Play the "what if" game to help your child think about how they may react to different potential safety situations. For example, "What if someone asked you to go on a secret adventure and not to tell me?" Or, "What if someone asked you to come over to play but not to tell me?" Brainstorm different scenarios, and ask your child what they think about these situations and how they would act.

### Activities to Try at Home

You are encouraged to use the following resources with your child at home. Each may be downloaded and printed.

- [Steps-to-Safety: Tattling vs Reporting](#)
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### Tips to Further Today's Lesson

- Let your child explain to you the difference between **tattling** and **reporting**.
- Ask your child which voice they use when **reporting** to a **Grown-Up Buddy**.
- Ask your child if the same voice would be used if they were **tattling**.

- Explain to your child that they must continue reporting until they get the **2 H's: Heard and Helped**. Parents can practice active listening by repeating the child's report to them and reflecting on what has been said by paraphrasing. "What I'm hearing is" and "It sounds like you are saying" are great ways to let children understand that they have been heard. Lastly, follow up with an action plan to let your child know how they can expect to be helped.

For more ways to talk to your child about staying safe, visit [Safer, Smarter Families](#). For additional resources, visit [Lauren's Kids](#). To report abuse, call the [ChildHelp National Child Abuse Hotline](#) at 1-800-422-4453, and you will be referred to your local reporting agency.

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