

LESSON 5

SAFE & UNSAFE SECRETS



Today's Lesson: Lesson 5

In the video portion of today's lesson, your child learned how someone was tricked and hurt by a **trusted adult**. The concepts of **safe** and **unsafe secrets** were reviewed. A **safe secret** is one that is eventually told, and that makes everyone happy. An **unsafe secret** is one that makes you feel confused, "icky," or bad, or you are told not to tell. Students saw how a series of **unsafe secrets** that were not shared with a **trusted adult** led to an **unsafe situation**. The students observed the manipulative behaviors that led to someone being tricked and harmed by a **trusted adult**. Even though the person who was harmed employed many safe behaviors, the **wrongdoer** had gained their trust and the trust of their family. The students learned about the tactics a **wrongdoer** might use to **trick** a **victim** and their family.



Human Trafficking Prevention

Students will learn the difference between a **personal boundary violation** and a **body boundary violation**. Students will also be introduced to the idea that there can be different types of **unsafe secrets** used by **wrongdoers**. If someone is forced to keep an **unsafe secret** because they fear what might happen if they tell, it is a **threat**. If someone keeps an **unsafe secret** because they've been told something good will happen if they do, it's an **unsafe promise**. Sometimes, someone is manipulated by a **trick** to keep an **unsafe secret** from being told.



Caregiver Connection

As your child observed in today's lesson, **wrongdoers** can be very manipulative and are skilled at gaining the trust of a child and their family. It is important for your child's safety that you are very aware of adults who want to develop a relationship with you and your child. Adults who build relationships with parents may be doing so in order to gain access to their children. This act of building a relationship and gradually testing boundaries is called "**grooming**." Pay close attention to adults who are overly friendly to you and your child, always willing to help out and seem to be a "lifesaver" for your family, and seem to rush closeness with your family. If a relationship seems just not quite right, it most likely is not.

Activities to Try at Home

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

- [Make a Secret Gauge & Safe and Unsafe Secrets](#)
- [Steps-to-Safety: Understanding Grooming](#)

Try out this interactive web-based activity to learn the vocabulary words for Lesson 5.

- [Let's Practice: Lesson 5 Vocabulary](#)

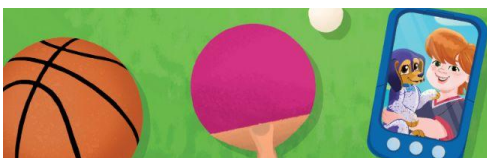


Tips to Further Today's Lesson

Help your child to recognize the characteristics of a **safe situation** and an **unsafe situation**. Like an **unsafe secret**, an **unsafe situation** is one that makes someone feel confused, “icky,” threatened, or just not quite right and that you are told not to tell about. It is important to frequently talk with your child about events in their lives that may worry them and to monitor relationships that adults have with your child. Ninety percent of the time a child is harmed, it's at the hands of someone they – and their family – know and trust, not a **stranger**.

For more ways to talk to your students about staying safe, visit [Safer Smarter Schools](#). 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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