



A Word to Parents And Teachers

The Right Touch was written to help parents and teachers talk to young children about sexual abuse. Most grown ups want to protect the children they care about from harm, but when it comes to talking about sexual abuse, they aren't sure what to say or how to say it. They are afraid they will scare children if they use the wrong words.

The Right Touch is a gentle and loving story written for children as young as three and as old as nine years of age. It helps parents teach their children to say no and tell right away if anyone tries to molest them. It doesn't talk about strangers because most of the time an offender is someone the child knows. It is frequently a family friend or family member.

The Right Touch affirms a child's natural instinct for sensing danger and will help a child feel strong and loved. The setting of this story is in rural Alaska. The main characters are a Yup'ik Eskimo father and his son. The intention of this story is to provide a teaching tool for adults with a setting and style to which native children can relate. We do not wish to imply that the problem of sexual abuse is more extensive in this cultural group than in other parts of the country.

About The Author:

Sandy Klevens, LCSW is employed by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel, Alaska. She is the author of award winning materials used to prevent sexual abuse. Most recently, her children's book, The Right Touch: A Read Aloud Story To Help Prevent Sexual Abuse was awarded the Benjamin Franklin Award as the best parenting book of 1999. It is available from local bookstores or on-line at: <http://www.amazon.com>.

Alaska Resources:

To report child abuse in Alaska call 1-800-478-4444 (24 hours a day)
Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault 907/465-4356
Alaska Family Violence Prevention Clearinghouse 1-800-799-7570
RID Alaska of Child Sexual Abuse <http://www.alaska.net/~rosenbau/>
AK Info 1-800-478-2221 (24 hours) On-line at: <http://www.ak.org>