

# What does someone who makes Unsafe Choices look like?

## Talking Points for Parents & Caregivers



### The Issue

The notion of “Stranger Danger” is an important one to teach children; however, while some sexual predators are indeed strangers, the vast majority are NOT. In fact, over 90 percent of sexually abused children are harmed by someone they know, love or trust. Perpetrators can include family members, family friends, school mates, other adults known to the child, babysitters and more.

So, it’s important to know that in the vast majority of child sexual abuse cases, perpetrators are not strangers lurking in the bushes. Instead, they are people who are already in the child’s life. Therefore, it’s very important to discuss the fact that NO ONE has a right to see or do something to a child’s private body parts just to play a game, or for no good reason, regardless of who they are or how well-known they are to the child. It’s also not okay for someone to have your child see or do something to that person’s private body parts.

### Please Follow These Steps

- 1) With your child, watch the “What does someone who makes Unsafe Choices look like?” video in the “Believe Jeeves!” series.
- 2) Download and print the corresponding worksheet for kids.
  - a. Ask the child to draw pictures of:
    - i. HOW the child would FEEL...
    - ii. WHAT the child would DO...
    - iii. WHO the child would tell......if someone made an unsafe choice about your child’s body or asks your child to do something unsafe to that person’s body.
  - b. Reinforce that it’s impossible to know if someone makes unsafe choices by the way they look — rather, their actions and behavior determine whether they make good choices or unsafe ones.

- c. Let the child know that while it's important to respect and listen to adults, and that most adults follow good body safety rules, **some adults** might NOT follow good body safety rules, and that is NOT okay. Reinforce the fact that the child does NOT have to do what an adult says if the adult ignores good body safety rules and makes Unsafe Choices.
  - d. Spend time talking about special gifts and favors — if someone offers the child things that are not offered to other children, remind the child to let you or another Safe Adult know about it right away. Sometimes, people who offer a child special gifts and favors do so in order to earn the child's trust, and sometimes these people don't always make safe choices and follow good body safety rules. Again, the child should let you or another Safe Adult know if this happens.
  - e. Remind the child that NO ONE — regardless of how nice that person acts, looks, or dresses, and no matter who they are or how important their job is — NO ONE is allowed to see or do something to the child's private body parts for no good reason, or just to play a game.
  - f. Ask the child the questions below, customized to match their age, preferences and interests.
    - i. "If someone gave you \_\_\_\_\_, would you let that person see one of your private body parts?"
      - 1. *Suggestions to fill in the blank:*
        - a. Candy
        - b. Toys
        - c. Video games
        - d. Your favorite pizza
        - e. Money
    - ii. "If someone let you \_\_\_\_\_, would you let that person do something to your private body parts?"
      - 1. *Suggestions to fill in the blank:*
        - a. Pet their puppy
        - b. Play at their house
        - c. Stay up extra late
        - d. Watch grown-up movies
- 3) Not all children are taught good body safety rules. Ask the child to let you or another Safe Adult know if they ever hear one of their friends talk about someone seeing or doing something to their private body parts so that you can step in and help protect that child. The child should also let you or another Safe Adult know if another child sees or does something to their private body parts.

- 4) Identify everyday opportunities to reinforce a safe environment in which your child can share his/her thoughts, feelings, worries and concerns.
- 5) Watch “What does someone who makes Unsafe Choices look like?” and other “Believe Jeeves!” videos to help teach and reinforce body safety messages that are important to helping protect your child from sexual abuse, bullying and more!

### **We Welcome Your Suggestions and Ideas**

We are always eager to receive feedback and suggestions about ways to help protect children from sexual abuse. Please email us at [Jeeves@traversebaycac.org](mailto:Jeeves@traversebaycac.org) with your ideas, thank you!

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### **How do I tell my child that Jeeves doesn't REALLY talk?**

Because kids are naturally curious, inquisitive and oh-so-smart, you may find yourself fielding questions about Jeeves and his video series, like:

- Can Jeeves really talk?
- Do other dogs talk?
- Do the other animals in Jeeves' videos speak in real life?

These are all excellent questions! You can respond to these inquiries by simply sharing this:

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“Jeeves has friends who help him speak on camera.  
But if he COULD talk, these are the things  
he would say and want you to know.”

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