

HOTLINE ROLE PLAY

www.EndChildAbuseLB.org

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****Note:** The names and situation are taken from actual incidents observed 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, is there something wrong? Why do you look so sad?

IRENE: Oh, I don't know.

MOM: Come on, you can tell me. What is it?

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

MOM: I didn't know you were going to be taught that in school. You are only 10 years old. Should I call the school and tell them to stop that? Is that why you are so sad?

IRENE: Mom, they said that when kids are touched in their private parts, it is against the law and they should "Break the Silence" by telling someone – like their parents or teachers.

MOM: Hmm.... That's true. If a stranger 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. Also they said it's never our fault when someone touches us.

MOM: Well, you know you need to make sure you say "No" when someone tries to touch you. Otherwise the person may think it is OK to touch you.

IRENE: But they said even if we say it is OK, it is not OK, it is against the law.

MOM: Hmm..., OK, so is this what's making you so sad?

IRENE: Well, your boyfriend Ralph treats me real nice and has given me nice presents. I really like the bicycle he gave me last month.

MOM: Yes, he has been my boyfriend for six months. He will be here again tonight in about an hour. But why are you feeling so sad?

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

MOM: Irene, why didn't you tell me?

IRENE: Well, he didn't really hurt me. And he said this is what people do when they love each other.

MOM: But, why didn't you tell me?

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

MOM: Oh, Irene. Is that why you got a "D" on your math test yesterday?

IRENE: I have been thinking about what he said and did to me all the time.

MOM: Is there anything else?

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: Ralph can be scary.

IRENE: I was scared. But today, the people from *End Child Abuse* 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. We don't even have to give them our names.

MOM: Yes, let's call them before Ralph gets here.

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

MOM: Ralph 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 bicycle, 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 Ralph did to you. You can tell them how you feel about it.

IRENE: I think I would like that - yes.

MOM: Wonderful. 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.