

This resource is one of many available to you through the *Second Step* Child Protection Unit, a comprehensive school-based child protection program, which includes staff training, student lessons, and family resources. Access additional free resources on child sexual abuse prevention for parents at [earlyopenoften.org](http://earlyopenoften.org).

## Recommended Book List—Early Learning

### Weekly Theme 1: Ways to Stay Safe

The *Watch Out! Series* (*Watch Out! Around Town*, *Watch Out! At Home*, *Watch Out! Near Water*, *Watch Out! On the Road*) by Claire Llewellyn, illustrated by Mike Gordon (2006). Using fun, entertaining illustrations and straightforward, easily understood language, the *Watch Out! Series* explains to children what rules they need to follow to stay safe in many situations and why these rules are so important. Each book also contains simple activities you can use to reinforce these important safety skills. (Safety Rules. The Always Ask First Rule.)

### Weekly Theme 2: The Always Ask First Rule

*Be Careful and Stay Safe* by Cheri J. Meiners, illustrated by Meredith Johnson (2007). This book uses bright illustrations of familiar scenes and easily understood narration to reinforce many common safety rules and continually remind children that adults are there to keep them safe. (Ways to Stay Safe. The Always Ask First Rule)

### Weekly Theme 3: Safe and Unsafe Touches

*Hands Are Not for Hitting*, by Martine Agassi, Ph.D., illustrated by Marieka Heinlen. This book clearly describes for children the difference between safe and unsafe touches and gives children useful suggestions for how they can keep themselves safe from unsafe touches. There are also suggestions for parents and educators about helping children stay safe from violence. (Unsafe Touches. Ways to Stay Safe.)

### Weekly Theme 4: The Touching Rule

*Your Body Belongs to You* by Cornelia Spelman, illustrated by Teri Weidner (1997). This book explains in simple language that it is okay for children to refuse unwanted touches. The clear message, multiple scenarios, and engaging pictures make this an excellent book to read along with children ages three to six. (Safe and unsafe touches. Refusing unwanted touches. The Touching Rule.)

### Weekly Theme 5: Practicing Staying Safe

*My Body Belongs to Me* by Jill Starishevsky, illustrated by Sarah Muller (2009). Told in a series of rhyming couplets paired with simple, colorful watercolors, this book is fun to listen to. *My Body Belongs to Me* reminds children to report any abusive touching and that there are many trusted adults to whom children can report abuse. (The Touching Rule. The Never Keep Secrets Rule).

### Weekly Theme 6: Reviewing Safety Skills

*Know and Follow Rules* by Cheri J. Meiners, M.Ed., illustrated by Meredith Johnson. This book, by the same author as *Be Careful and Stay Safe*, explains in simple, clear stories why rules exist and why it's important to follow them.

Additional lists of books recommended for educators and parents available at [earlyopenoften.org](http://earlyopenoften.org).