

### **“Unsafe Touch” Story: (Michael)**

(Michael) was coming home from school on the bus one afternoon. He only had a few miles to go until his house. This was his favorite part of the ride, because he almost always had the whole bus to himself.

This afternoon, there was only one other passenger on the bus. He looked kind of familiar. (Michael) was about to stretch himself out on the seat, when the other passenger came over and started talking to him. He told (Michael) that he had been watching him on the soccer field during the Saturday games. He thought that (Michael) would grow up to be a great soccer player. (Michael) felt really proud. He dreamed about playing soccer in college some day.

(Michael) was enjoying the conversation, but then the man started touching him in a way that made him feel scared and unsafe. (Michael) was embarrassed and wondered what to do.

(Michael) pushed past the man and ran up to the driver and told him what had happened. (Michael) was relieved that his stop was just around the corner. He felt better after he had told his Mom and Dad.

**“Bad Secret” Story: (Sarah)**

(Sarah) is 10 years old. She has just changed schools because her mom and dad bought a new house.

At first, she liked the new school a lot. But now some of the girls on her street are calling her “stupid”. (Sarah) has started to feel bad about herself. She feels sad. Sometimes the girls hit her while they call her names. This makes her feel very unsafe. She feels too embarrassed to tell anyone about it.

A few weeks ago, the teacher had begun to do the “Stay Safe” program with the class. (Sarah) has learned that she can say “No” to the girls that are bothering her.

One day, (Sarah) shouted “No!” and ran away from the girls that were picking on her. The next day, she privately told her mom and teacher about what was happening to her. Her mom and teacher helped her.

Now (Sarah) is happy again. She feels safe, and there is no more name-calling or hitting.

### “Stranger” Story: (Laura)

(Laura) lives in Billerica, but she goes to school in Boston. She goes to a special school because she can't hear very well. She studies English, Math, French, and many other subjects. She also learns how to use sign language, and how to read lips.

(Laura) likes the school very much. But she doesn't like riding the train every day. She has to travel by herself, and it can be pretty scary.

One day, when (Laura) arrived at the train station, it was already dark. She was tired and hungry, but was looking forward to seeing mom and dad and her sister. And she was *really* looking forward to dinner! But there was nobody there to meet her. Everyone else got off the train and left. After a few minutes, no one was left in the station except (Laura).

The ticket clerk, whom she knew well from traveling everyday on the train, was across the waiting room at the ticket counter. (Laura) decided to wait where she was for her parents.

Then, she sensed someone behind her. (Laura) turned around, and there was a man standing there. He smiled and said something, but of course she didn't know what he was saying. (Laura) smiled back and shrugged to show that she couldn't understand. The man spoke again, wrapping his arms around himself to show that it was cold outside. He gestured towards the exit.

(Laura) realized that the man was offering her a ride home. She shook her head. He spoke again, and he must have been shouting loudly because she could sense the vibrations. The man asked her to come with him, but she shook her head again.

Just then, (Laura) saw the ticket clerk coming towards her. He handed her a note that read, "Your mom and dad will be here soon. Their car got a flat tire. Stay in the waiting room until they come." (Laura) walked over to the ticket counter to be nearer to the ticket clerk. When she looked across the station to where she had been standing, the man was gone. (Laura) immediately felt better.

A few minutes later, her mom and dad arrived and apologized for being late. (Laura) told them about the man who had scared her. They promised to take care of it and make sure he never bothered her again.