



## Home Connection

### **Responding to Inappropriate Situations**

Dear Family,

Our class has been learning about good and bad touches and ways to respond to bad touches. In class we discussed the differences between appropriate and inappropriate expressions of affection. We have emphasized that children are entitled to say no to inappropriate touch and that they should get away from the person as soon as they can. We also emphasized the importance of always talking to trusted adults, like parents or teachers, about bad touches.

Another aspect of responding to inappropriate situations is knowing how to respond to inappropriate electronic communications to include text messages and other online messaging. Children were taught that they should not respond to any inappropriate messages on cell phones or other devices such as online gaming systems. They were also taught *not* to delete such messages, but to report them to a trusted adult. If a child reports a message to you, the message should be saved and reported to the appropriate authorities.

Remember that a child who reports inappropriate touch or sexual abuse to you needs your support. If you know a child who has been abused or touched inappropriately, contact the Fairfax County Child Protective Services Hotline, (703) 324-7400. You can call anytime, day or night. Social workers at Child Protective Services are trained to help children who have been abused.

Should you have any questions about our lessons, do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Thank you,

Your Child's Teacher