



MAKING CONNECTIONS...

Ricky Tells His Truth By: Resilience Educators

As caretakers of young people, making connections and continuing the conversation is helpful to developing critical thinking skills and extending compassion. This includes helping us broaden our understanding of how issues of immigration, race, incarceration, gender, and more are linked to sexual violence. This connection is crucial when thinking about how to keep our communities safer and work towards a future free from harm.

Kiana is seven years old, LOVES science, and her cool All-Star sneakers. She narrates the story about her best friend Ricky. One day at lunch, Kiana and Ricky are dared to kiss on the lips. Shocked, Kiana exclaims that she is the boss of her body! Ricky feels the same, however, he starts to cry. This leads Ricky to disclose that he plays truth or dare with his babysitter Alex.

Alex gives Ricky unsafe touches. Ricky, does not want to tell on his babysitter because Alex gives him things like ice cream and let's Ricky stay up past his bedtime. Ricky doesn't want to be touched or to touched Alex. Kiana encourages Ricky to tell his mother. However, after telling his mom, she does not believe him. Kiana and Ricky brainstorm about other adults he could tell and realize there is a safe adult at school. Kiana and Ricky are able to talk about child sexual abuse, safe adults, and how no one can stop you from growing.

"Ricky Tells His Truth" helps readers of all ages understand the nuances of child sexual abuse from grooming to young people simply not being believed. Talking to children about feelings associated with unsafe touches such as the uh-oh feeling can help keep them safe and communicate their body boundaries. Furthermore, recognizing the grooming process for both children and adults can fight against victim blaming and disbelief of disclosures. Talking to your young person about having five safe adults can help them think about their community and who to go to outside of their family.



RESILIENCE
EMPOWERING
SURVIVORS
ENDING SEXUAL
VIOLENCE



CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION...

1 What is the uh-oh feeling? Have you ever felt the uh-oh feeling?

What is the difference between a surprise and a secret? What if to keep a secret you get money or video games?

2

3 Were you surprised that Ricky's mom did not believe him? Has an adult ever not believed you?

Was Kiana a good friend to Ricky? What made her a good friend?

4

5 Who are your 5 safe adults if you or a friend goes through child sexual abuse? What is child sexual abuse?

