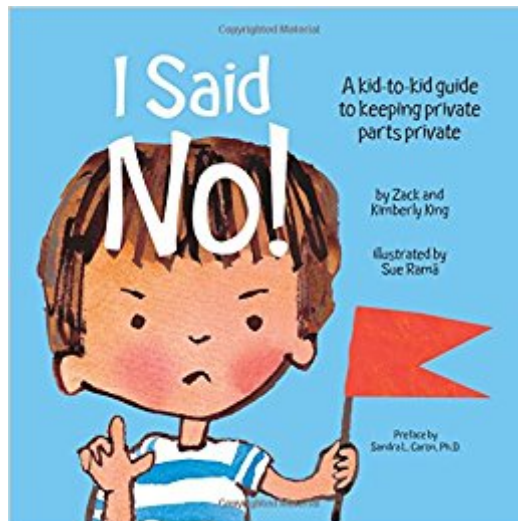




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I Said No! A Kid-to-kid Guide To Keeping Private Parts Private



Synopsis

Helping kids set healthy boundaries for their private parts can be a daunting and awkward task for parents, counselors and educators. Written from a kid's point of view, *I Said No!* makes this task a lot easier. To help Zack cope with a real-life experience he had with a friend, he and his mom wrote a book to help prepare other kids to deal with a range of problematic situations. *I Said No!* uses kid-friendly language and illustrations to help parents and concerned adults give kids guidance they can understand, practice and use. Using a simple, direct, decidedly non-icky approach that doesn't dumb down the issues involved, as well as an easy-to-use system to help kids rehearse and remember appropriate responses to help keep them safe, *I Said No!* covers a variety of topics, including: What's appropriate and with whom. How to deal with inappropriate behavior, bribes and threats. When and where to go for help, and what to do if the people you're turning to for help don't listen. Dealing with feelings of guilt and shame.

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

Customer Reviews

I Said No! Young Zack and his mom explain how and why they wrote this book after a difficult experience at Zack's first sleepover.

I purchased 3 books on this subject that were highly recommended by the people that purchased them. Although all the books were great, this book stood out far from the rest. I have 4 kids that

range from age 7 to 14. I was reading this book for the first time to my 2 youngest (7 & 10) when the 2 older kids (12 & 14) came into the room as I continued to read. The 2 older kids were actively participating in discussing the contents of the book just as much as the younger ones. We ended up reading it through a second time with all the kids & discussing what they learned. What I'm trying to say is even though at first this book seemed like it was going to pertain to much younger children, it actually didn't. The author made it understandable for the younger ones, but also covered situations the older ones had never thought of. The author also left several areas "open for parental discussion" at the end of sections where parents can elaborate more if they feel they needed to. For ex: some families use the words "private parts", "bathing suit area" or "boy parts & girl parts" instead of the proper names. Instead of explaining these proper names, the author writes something like "..your private parts are the areas of your body that are covered by your bathing suit. These "private areas" have names that you can discuss with your parent. You may want to discuss this right now.." So the author covers all the bases for those parents who would rather use their own "pet names" for genitals without offending anybody (as ALWAYS, there will be people offended by using "penis and vagina" with their children, as well as the reverse using "pee-pee" instead of the correct names for genitals). This was very SMART on the author's part. She left these areas open for further discussion if it was a more sensitive topic. She also explained about "red flags" in how people act and what they say, and how to spot a "red flag". She also explained the importance of TELLING no matter what. One of the most important topics she discussed (that many books overlook or don't emphasize ENOUGH) is that the people that can do these things can be someone you love a lot like a close relative, neighbor, friend, friend's parent or relative, etc. Someone doesn't have to look or be mean or be a STRANGER. As a matter of fact, I don't think the word Stranger was used, which is also SMART because that paints a bad picture to children that only bad-looking people or people they don't know will do these things. I know this is probably wordy & overwritten, but I've read LOTS of books and this is the ONLY ONE that had everything all laid out the way it should be.

We purchased a number of these books to start the discussion of body awareness with our daughter. As early as 4 years old, we decided to open the discussion up so that our daughter would be aware of her own body. It isn't just about not wanting inappropriate touching...It is about giving your child the option of just saying no. No if they don't want to hug at that moment, no if they don't want to kiss a person they don't know much. It is about instructing your child that if they don't "feel" safe with a certain person, or in a certain situation...that is ok. It is about building their confidence in saying "NO". Best thing we ever did.

I bought this to help teach boundaries to my foster children. I thought it was a little long to be used as a bedtime story personally, but the kids love to choose this as a bedtime story because it means they'll get to stay up later. I like the simple, easy to understand use of flags as a code system for when kids are in unsafe conditions. I thought the book does a decent job of teaching proper sexual boundaries. I do wish they would've gotten a tad bit more specific, I understand why they wanted to keep it light (it's a children's book) but some of my kids didn't quite get the message.

As a molested child myself, reading the book brought memories of the 'play dates' I had as a child. I didn't realise the devastating effects of what I put my 'friends' through as I had no idea that what I had done is wrong. Therefore, I believe that reading these books to our children (as uncomfortable as that may seem) will prevent our children from being victims of sexual crimes. Although I thought because I had the sexual abuse in my past that I knew EVERYTHING and this would never happen to my own children, it actually did. When my oldest son who is now 25 was 6, our trusted, friendly neighbor stepped up to 'help' me raise my children (since I was a single Mother and they 'needed' a 'Father figure' as appreciative as I was to him, I had no idea he had 'other motives' and that was my worst nightmare. I feel that following through by pressing charges and convicting him was healing to not only my son but to me. I recently wrote our story but it is NOT written for children. Thank you for writing this book so it may help to protect my baby!Jori Nunes 'Chocolate Flowers'

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