

# Physical Abuse Awareness Puppet Program



**What to expect:** Nam is surprised to see Stephen at Open House with his mom because he has heard rumors that Stephen's mom has hurt him. Stephen says that his mom used to hurt him, and now she is getting help and has stopped. He talks about her anger problem, what she did to him (pushing, slapping, throwing things at him), his injuries, how he felt emotionally, how he and his family got help, and then he answers questions from the audience. (Stephen's Mom is not in the show, she is referenced off stage.)

## Key Program Points:

- Abuse is **NEVER** the child's fault
- Definition of physical abuse as a "hitting problem" which leaves a bruise, cut, broken bone or other mark on your body that lasts into the next day
- Abuse often occurs with someone a child knows. In Stephen's case, it is his mom, who loves him very much, but she has an anger problem.
- Disclosure strategies
- How to make a safety plan
- Identifying helpful adults in a child's support system
- Families can get help

## Resources:

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont: <https://pcavt.org/>

KidSafe Collaborative <https://kidsafevt.org/about-child-abuse-and-neglect.html>

Vermont Department of Children and Families: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/prevention>



For more information about our programs or ways we support families, please visit [VermontFamilyNetwork.org](http://VermontFamilyNetwork.org) or [PuppetsInEducation.org](http://PuppetsInEducation.org) or call (800) 800-4005

