

# Sexual Abuse Awareness Puppet Program



**What to expect:** Joanne is talking to Stephen and mentions that she once had a “touching problem happen.” He asks about it and she suggests they could act out when she reported it to a trusted grownup, Mr. Kontos. Stephen then pretends to be Mr. Kontos and Joanne tells him the story of how her mom’s boyfriend, Len, touched her in her private places at bathtime. She talks about how she got help and how it is NEVER a child’s fault. (Note: Len is not in the show.) Joanne takes questions from the audience.

## Key Program Points:

- Abuse is NEVER the child’s fault
- Definition of sexual abuse as a “touching problem”--when someone touches, looks at, takes photos of, or asks to be touched in private parts of the body covered by a bathing suit
- The importance of knowing and using the correct names for body parts, including genitals
- Sexual abuse can happen to anyone, of any age or gender
- Len was “grooming” Joanne over time, asking her to keep small secrets
- Joanne had a lot of different feelings
- Abuse often occurs with someone a child knows
- Disclosure strategies
- Identifying helpful adults
- Understand right to privacy, consent
- There is help if this has happened to you

## Resources:

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

Hope Works VT <https://hopeworksvt.org/>

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) <https://www.rainn.org/national-resources-sexual-assault-survivors-and-their-loved-ones>

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



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

