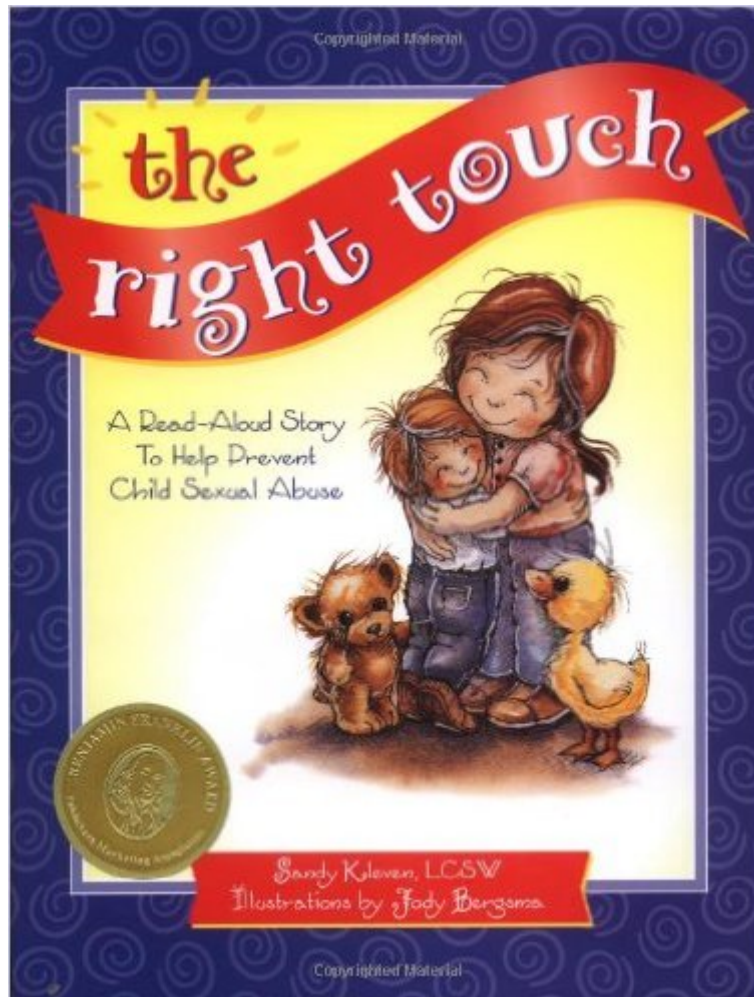


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# The Right Touch: A Read-Aloud Story To Help Prevent Child Sexual Abuse (Jody Bergsma Collection)



## Synopsis

The Right Touch reaches beyond the usual scope of a children's picture book. It is a parenting book that introduces a very difficult topic--the sexual abuse of young children. This gentle, thoughtful story can be read aloud to a child by any trusted caregiver. In the story, young Jimmy's mom explains the difference between touches that are positive and touches that are secret, deceptive or forced. She tells him how to resist inappropriate touching, affirming that abuse is not the child's fault. The introduction provides valuable information about sexual abuse and guidance on what to do if your child experiences an abusive situation. Jody Bergsma's gentle illustrations soften the impact of this story; yet this portrayal of a dangerous situation is very realistic. If your child is old enough to sit still and listen to a story, he or she is old enough for The Right Touch. Used by parents and teachers nationwide to help children avoid sexual abuse, this book won the 1999 Benjamin Franklin Parenting Award. It was a finalist for the Small Press Award and was also "Selected as Outstanding" by the Parent Council, Ltd.

## Book Information

Series: Jody Bergsma Collection

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Illumination Arts Publishing Company; 1 edition (April 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0935699104

ISBN-13: 978-0935699104

Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 8.4 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (66 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #130,682 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Dysfunctional Relationships #65 in Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Abuse #2102 in Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Beginner Readers

Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## Customer Reviews

I chose not to read this book to my 5 year old after reading the first 6 pages and then flipping through the rest of the illustrations. I bought 2 other books on this subject that were a huge

improvement over this one. "No Trespassing-This is my body" is a nice basic introduction to the topic for very young children. For kids who are 4 or 5 or older I recommend "I said NO" which is much more detailed about saying no to bribes, threats, and lies without creating any scared or uncomfortable feelings. "The right touch" had a creepy scuzzy feel to it. I personally don't like the huge eyes with almost no whites of the eyes showing, but I was willing to overlook that if the content was good. In the beginning of the story the mother is tucking her son into bed and she's hugging him, gently tickling him, and then it says, "I like to pretend to bite your ear." And then "she nuzzled his earlobe and made turkey sounds." The hug and the gentle tickle was fine but I thought the ear thing isn't something that everyone does and my son wouldn't have understood this reference as playful, but probably would have just thought it was weird. I would have skipped those lines if I had ever read it to my son. A few pages later the mother begins to tell a story about a little girl who got tricked by a man in her neighborhood. It describes how she was lured into his home to see some baby kittens. As the story goes on it says, "The man said, 'If you sit on my lap, I'll show you the kittens.' Then the little girl got an uncomfortable feeling. She was about to go home when the man tried to put his hand down her panties." I felt this was overly descriptive and overly scary because it was an attempted attack and described by the mother as a true story.

The book is a wee bit bigger than 8 1/2 by 11, a very good size for reading to a child. It is gorgeously and warmly illustrated by Jody Bergsma, a woman of great talent and much understanding of the child's eye. This is a book for helping to prevent child sexual abuse. Sandy is an expert in this problem, and has done much work to help put an end to it. In this book she has done a very great service to a (hopefully) much wider audience. There is a "note to parents and teachers" at the beginning of the book, which discusses the question of child sexual abuse in a succinct, knowing, and helpful manner, better than I've ever seen it dealt with. Then the story. I really like the way that Sandy has chosen to present this difficult topic. The book describes a conversation between a loving mother and her son Jimmy, in which she gently and carefully raises the topic of "touching problems" and goes on from there. This must be a godsend for parents who might have difficulty in starting a conversation about something so intimate. They can "break the ice" by reading this book to their child, and then perhaps repeat the conversation with their own child for real. The conversation between Jimmy and his mother covers just about everything that a small child needs to know, in a very subtle, gentle, and wise way. Like when intimate touching is OK (doctor, diaper changing, parental tending to hurts, etc.). Like how to say NO to somebody. Like how sexual touching is really not that much different from bullying and playing tricks: it's bad, it's not your fault,

and grownups can help you stop it. There is great wisdom in this book. I see it especially in what Sandy has chosen to leave out.

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