



That Uh-oh Feeling: A Story about Touch

Kathryn Cole , Qin Leng (Illustrations)

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No matter how hard she tries, Claire can't kick the soccer ball in a straight line. Her coach steps in and places his hand on her shoulder, telling her that she's too pretty to wear a frown. When he tickles her later and asks her to keep it a secret, Claire doesn't know exactly what's wrong, but something just feels "weird." Too much flattery and too much contact give her that weird, uh-oh feeling. She turns to her friends for help and learns that adults shouldn't ask kids to keep secrets about touch, so Claire tells her mother. By seeking help from others and talking about her feelings, the situation is resolved happily.

That Uh-oh Feeling: A Story about Touch Details

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From Reader Review That Uh-oh Feeling: A Story about Touch for online ebook

Barbara says

Claire is excited about trying to learn how to play soccer. But she also feels unsettled when her coach gives her a lot of extra attention and praises her efforts too lavishly. When he singles her out for special attention and tickles her, she feels uncomfortable and doesn't know how to deal with those feelings. Eventually, after talking to her friends, her sister, and her mother, things get resolved. I like how Claire's feelings are never dismissed by those around her, all of whom seem to offer support. I also like how readers don't know if Claire's mother actually confronted Coach Ian or whether he doesn't realize that his behavior bothers Claire. Certainly, his request that she keep what he says about her being his star player a secret is bothersome and might be a clue that he's grooming her for something inappropriate later. As complex as relationships can be, this book offers one way to handle a troublesome situation. The inclusion of tips for talking about the issue of touch is helpful for adults and youngsters.

Sandra says

The way coach Ian behaves towards Claire makes her feel uneasy. She can't point exactly why, but he triggers that "uh-oh" feeling in her. He touches and tickles her. He says she is the star of the team, but Claire knows she is really bad at soccer. He calls her "pretty", but what does "pretty" have to do with playing soccer? He even blames Claire for all this physical contact, since she looks *so* sad that he *has* to tickle her. The worst thing is he asks Claire to keep all this situation between them as a secret. Claire knows that secrets about touching are wrong, but what to do?

Claire is not sure about talking to an adult. What if coach Ian is just being nice? She decides to talk to her friends first, and encouraged by their support she talks to her older sister, who persuades Claire to speak to her mom.

I find the approach of the story to this delicate subject just excellent. The emphasis in listening to your feelings, to that weird sensation that it's like a fire alarm and it's trying to tell us something's not right. I liked that coach Ian actually looks like a nice guy (in the text and in the illustrations), because that's how abusers usually look like. That probably makes harder to suspect of them, but it shouldn't. There's a message in this story not only to victims and potential victims, but to friends, schoolmates and siblings who might be asked for help.

A decided 5 stars!

Age range: 6 to 10 years old

I received this copy from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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Carla Johnson-Hicks says

Claire is a young girl who is the recipient of unwanted attention from her Soccer Coach. He offers to give her individual coaching time, tickles her, touches her often and tells her she is the star of the team. He also tells her to keep what he says to her a secret. Claire feels funny, she gets that uh-oh feeling, but she is also not sure if she is making too much out of it. She tells her two best friends what has happened and how it made her feel. They were especially concerned that he told her not to tell anyone. When she tells her sister, she convinces her to tell her mother. Her mother ends up coaching the next practice.

This story is a good one to teach young children about the steps to take when you feel uncomfortable about someone touching you as well as what to do when someone tells you not to tell anyone. Once again like the other books in this series, there are suggestions for parents, teachers and caregivers of how to have these discussions with children.

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Claire says

I highly recommend this book to families and people who work with children.

Claire feels uncomfortable when Coach Ian starts paying special attention to her. He asks her to keep a secret and says that he will give her special soccer lessons because she is his star player. Claire feels uncomfortable but is not sure what to do. Should she tell her mom, even though her mom seems to like and trust Coach Ian?

This is an excellently written book about a very important subject. It encourages kids to listen to their instincts and communicate to a trusted adult when they have an "uh oh feeling", through a simple, kid-friendly plot with a positive ending. The book focuses on Claire's deliberation about telling her friends and mother about her feeling, and models a way in which this "uh oh feeling" can be expressed.

Ashley says

A good story to read to any kid to keep them safe from abuse. This story is great because it doesn't recreate abuse on the page--in fact, all the adult does is tickle her. Instead, the story is about trusting your gut when an adult makes you feel uneasy, and that no adult should tell you to keep something a secret from your parents/other trusted adults. Very clear illustrations make this an easy one to incorporate into one-on-one storytimes, as it doesn't come across as one of those "serious" books.

Good for ages 3 and up, if they'll sit still long enough for it.

Becky Shaknovich says

I'm really glad to see books about consent for kids.

Kristy says

I like the approach this book took...the creepy soccer coach pays the young girl hero too much attention, telling her she is pretty and tickling her, offering to give her one on one coaching. Claire, the child, feels weird about it and wonders whether to say anything to the grown ups... she tells her friends first, then her sister, then her mom.

It's well done. Could be read as a cautionary tale to young children without scaring them too much. Probably best for preschool and up.

Megan says

Well done - an important topic for kids and adults.

Amanda says

So glad that this book has been written! This isn't an easy topic to talk about necessarily, but this is handled with delicacy (the mc's feelings are never belittled or negated) and the tips in the back for parents are a good springboard for further conversations.

As a friend of someone who was sexually abused as a child, I beg all parents and caregivers, PLEASE talk with your children about this and follow these suggestions! PLEASE. If you could ever do anything to help prevent this heartbreak, then PLEASE please PLEASE do so.

Alida says

Perfect to breach the subject to kids. Now I would like a children's book that addresses that "Uh-oh" feeling happening when it's a parent, sibling or relative, who are the vast majority of abusers.
