

Use Of Touch

Learning Objective: To teach children the appropriate touching of others

Skill: Emotional communication, self-awareness

Tell the group:

When you touch someone appropriately, it can communicate caring, friendship, and affection. Different ways of touching have different meanings. For example, a pat on the back is usually a sign that someone else approves of what you have done; a slap tells you the opposite. Some ways of touching are acceptable, and others aren't.

There are people who are comfortable with physical contact and people who are not. Here's a good rule to remember: If someone acts as if he doesn't want to be touched, don't touch him. Some schools even have a simple "no-touch" policy during the school day; no one is allowed to touch anyone else, except during sports.

Discuss the rules about touching at school, home, and community. Then, distribute **Use of Touch** Activity Sheet. Children should decide whether the types of touching listed are appropriate. If they answer yes, they should choose someone whom it would be appropriate to touch in that way.

Name _____ Date _____

Decide whether the following types of touching are appropriate. If you answer yes, whom would it be appropriate to touch in that way?



	Yes	No	Whom might I touch this way?
Shaking someone's hand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Slapping someone's face	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Giving a high-five	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Pushing in line	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Putting your arm around someone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Holding someone's hand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Tickling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Poking someone in the back	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Hugging someone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Patting someone's shoulder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Kicking someone's leg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____