



Sophie's Place Child & Youth Advocacy Centre

Telling vs Tattling

We are telling when we need the help of a trusted adult because someone is in danger or can get hurt. Tattling is when we tell a trusted adult about something that happened, but we can fix it on our own.

Read through the examples below and decide if they are telling or tattling.

Is it telling or tattling?
Is someone in danger or could get hurt?
Is this something they can fix on their own?

Jimmy took Ahmed's pencil from his desk without asking. Ahmed puts up his hand and tells the teacher.

Ricky shows Rasheed that he brought a knife to school and told him not to tell anyone. Rasheed went to the principal and told about the knife.

Rashna and Jessica are playing in the playground when a stranger offers them candy. The stranger tells them not to tell anyone. Both kids run away and tell their teacher.

Krista got a new jacket for her birthday. Her sister Carey tells her it's ugly and that she doesn't like it. Krista tells her mom that her sister is being mean.

Kevin and Jennifer are playing at the babysitter's house. Kevin tells Jennifer to touch his private parts. Jennifer shouts "No". She runs away and tells the babysitter what happened.

Shawn and Trina are playing a game together. Quinn asks "can I play too?" but they say no. This makes Quinn upset and he tells his dad.

Hannah is eating her favourite snack. Janessa takes a piece of her snack. Hannah yells, "hey those are mine!" but Janessa eats the snack anyways. Hannah tells her mom.

Jake and Cassie are playing together. Jake says "let's play a game where we touch our private parts". Cassie says no and tells Jake's mom what happened. Jake's mom says "you're okay, go back outside to play." Cassie runs home and tells her grandma what happened.

Source: <https://www.allianceforchildren.org/>

Child Abuse Reporting

Emergency: 911
1-800-663-9122 (Ministry of Children & Family Development)
Police: 604-599-0502

Contact Us

Phone: 604-588-0727
www.the-centre.org/sophies-place
Email: spinfo@the-centre.org