



Open House - Learning about Child Abuse

1. Where are Nam and Stephen?
2. What is Nam worried about at the beginning of the script?
3. Why is Nam surprised when Stephen's mom holds his hand?
4. Does Stephen confirm the rumours that Nam heard?
5. Why is Nam surprised that Stephen's Mom looks like a regular mom?
6. What made Stephen realize that what was happening in his house was different?
7. What did Stephen decide to do about his situation?
8. Who did Stephen tell?
9. What did Mrs. Johnson do? Is she angry with Stephen for telling?
10. What kind of help did Stephen and his family get?

Answer Key: Open House - Learning about Child Abuse

1. Where are Nam and Stephen? Stephen and Nam are at an open house (for parent/teacher night) at their school.

2. What is Nam worried about at the beginning of the script?

Nam is afraid because he heard that Stephen's mom abuses him by hitting him really hard.

3. Why is Nam surprised when Stephen's mom holds his hand?

Nam is surprised because of the rumours that he heard. Nam is assuming that a parent who abuses a child must not love them. He later learns that is not true. Parents who abuse their children don't love them any less. Being a parent is a really big job, and sometimes parents need help and support. Sometimes parents need to learn more appropriate behaviour and ways to discipline without hurting.

4. Does Stephen confirm the rumours that Nam heard?

Yes, Stephen confirms his mom used to hit him really hard, but that now she is trying to stop.

5. Why is Nam surprised that Stephen's Mom looks like a regular mom?

Like many people, Nam assumed that a parent who abuses must look different or scary. Nam learns that parents who abuse their kids look like everyone else. He also learns that child abuse can happen to a regular kid who lives in a regular house on a regular street. It is important to remember that even though the families are regular, the abusive behaviour is not. Children should not be hurt.

6. What made Stephen realize that what was happening in his house was different?

When Stephen's friend Jimmy got in trouble for ruining his new shoes, Stephen learned that Jimmy's idea of a 'serious punishment' was extra chores, grounding, and having to pay for the shoes out of his allowance. This made Stephen start to think about his own situation. He realized that not all kids get hurt when they get in trouble. Stephen decided that maybe he shouldn't be getting hurt either.

7. What did Stephen decide to do about his situation?

Stephen decided to tell someone about what was happening to him.

8. Who did Stephen tell?

Stephen told his teacher, Mrs. Johnson because he thought he could trust her and that she would listen to his whole story. Mrs. Johnson always seemed to care about the kids in her class and always tried to help them.

9. What did Mrs. Johnson do? Is she angry with Stephen for telling?

Mrs. Johnson listened to everything Stephen had to say. She told him that he did the right thing by telling. Mrs. Johnson reported it to The Children's Aid Society, so that they could help Stephen and his family. Mrs. Johnson was not angry with Stephen for telling. She was very nice and very supportive to Stephen.

10. What kind of help did Stephen and his family get?

Stephen and his family were connected with a social worker at Children's Aid. The social worker asked lots of questions and met with Stephen, his sister and his parents to help create a plan to keep them all safe. The social worker found some parenting classes and anger management classes for mom and a counsellor for Stephen. Stephen's counsellor Shawn is really nice and Stephen knows he can tell Shawn anything. Their social worker comes to visit once in a while, to see how Stephen and his family are doing.