

# HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS PUPPET SHOWS

*These puppet shows were developed by the Spokane County (Washington State) Domestic Violence Consortium Education Committee. These can be adapted to be sensitive to the different cultures where used.*

## SKIT 1 – THE NEW SHIRT

<b>Cast of Characters:</b>	<b>John</b>	<b>Sarah</b>
	<b>Kaleel</b>	<b>Madeline</b>
	<b>Zack</b>	<b>Teacher</b>

*John enters from stage right and Sarah enters from stage left, meeting just stage right of center stage.*

**John:** Oh, man, I thought recess would never come.

**Sarah:** I know. That math test was so hard.

*Kaleel enters from upstage and gets in between John and Sarah.*

**Kaleel:** *(To Sarah)* Sarah, do you like this new shirt my mom bought me?

**Sarah:** Well, it's not my style, but if you like it, you should wear it.

**John:** *(Upset that Kaleel interrupted his conversation with Sarah)* Hey, Kaleel, that's a stupid shirt you're wearing. Where did you get it? At the dump?

**Kaleel:** That's not very nice, John. My mom bought it for me. I like it.

**Sarah:** Yeah, John. It's not very nice to say things like that.

**John:** *(John starts pushing Kaleel,)* Stupid shirt, stupid shirt!

*Sarah moves more stage left as Madeline and Zack enter from upstage left, between Sarah and the two boys. Zack is closer to center stage, while Madeline is closer to stage left. They sit back closer to upstage than the rest of the characters.*

**Zack:** Hey, John, quit pushing Kaleel!

**Madeline:** Sarah, let's go get a teacher. *(Madeline and Sarah exit upstage left. Depending on the number of puppeteers, Sarah does not have to return.)*

**Zack:** Madeline's going to tell. Now, stop pushing Kaleel!

*John and Kaleel improv a fight scene to buy time for character changes.*

*A teacher runs over with Madeline from upstage left. The teacher is nearly center stage with John and Kaleel stage right and Madeline and Zack upstage and stage left.*

**Teacher:** Thank you, kids, run along and play. I will handle this. *(Pause - Turning to John)* John, what's going on here?

*John stops pushing Kaleel; he stands there, looking guilty.*

**Teacher:** John, why were you pushing Kaleel?

**John:** I wasn't.

**Teacher:** I saw you, John. Now, what is the problem?

**John:** Nothing.

**Teacher:** Kaleel, what's going on?

**Kaleel:** He's making fun of my shirt.

**Teacher:** Has anyone ever made fun of you for what you were wearing, John?

**John:** No. Why would they? I don't wear stupid shirts.

**Teacher:** Well, if they did, how do you think you'd feel?

**John:** I don't know.

**Teacher:** Would it feel good to be made fun of?

**John:** No.

**Teacher:** Would you feel happy or mad about it if it happened to you?

**John:** It would hurt my feelings. I would be mad.

**Teacher:** Has Kaleel done something to you that would make you want to hurt his feelings?

**John:** I don't know. . . no.

**Teacher:** Then why would you want to hurt Kaleel like this?

*John doesn't answer.*

**Teacher:** Have you ever heard the saying, treat others like you want to be treated?

**John:** Well, *(pause)* maybe.

**Teacher:** Well, think about it for a minute. Would you like others to pick on you?

**John:** No.

**Teacher:** Well then you need to be nice to others so they will be nice to you. OK, John?

**John:** OK

**Teacher:** Thank you. I'll see you back in class. *(Teacher exits upstage left.)* Hey! You kids over there! Slow down!

*(While Madeline and Zack enter from upstage left talking.)*

**Madeline:** Yeah! A kick ball game does sound great. Let's go!

**Zack:** Let's see if Kaleel wants to play too.

*(Turning to Kaleel.)*

**Zack:** Hey, Kaleel, we were about to start a game of kickball. Are you coming?

**Kaleel:** *(Turning to Zack at stage left.)* Yeah, be right there. *(Turning back to John.)* Hey, John, do you want to play with us?

**John:** Really?!

**Kaleel:** Yeah. But no more teasing me about my shirt!

**John:** Okay. Sorry about that. Will you forgive me?

**Kaleel:** Yes. Thank you for apologizing. It wasn't nice to make fun of my shirt, but I still want to be your friend. You don't have to like my shirt. What's important is that I do.

*(Both exit to upstage left.)*

### **Facilitator Follow-Up**

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Did you see any violence in this story?
2. Was it John pushing Kaleel?
3. How do you think Kaleel felt? Let's ask him.

4. Was talking to the teacher a good idea? Why?
5. John, what have you learned today about teasing and bullying?
6. Do you have anything to tell John about what he did?
7. What are the rules about bullying at your school?
8. Kaleel, do you have anything more to tell the kids about what happened today?

## SKIT 2 – JOHN'S DAD GETS MAD

**Cast of Characters:**            **Sarah**                            **Zach**  
   **John**                                    **Teacher**

*Sarah sits by herself center stage. Head drooping, she sighs deeply. Zack enters stage right, holding a soccer ball in his hands, humming to himself and very excited.*

**Zach:** Hey Sarah. Guess what?

*Sarah shakes her head sadly and holds her head with her hands.*

**Zach.** I learned a cool new trick you can do with a soccer ball. Want to see?

*Sarah shrugs.*

**Zach:** What's the matter Sarah? You seem really sad.

**Sarah:** I don't know. My stomach hurts today. I just feel bad all over.

**Zach:** Are you sick? Maybe you should call your Mom and have her pick you up from school?

**Sarah:** I'm not sick. I just feel icky.

**Zach:** How come?

**Sarah:** I saw something yesterday that made me feel scared inside when I was playing at John's house.

**Zach:** What did you see?

*Sarah, with eyes cast down, shakes her head again.*

**Zach:** Sara, it's okay to talk to me.

**Sarah:** When John's Dad came home from work he was really, really mad. He yelled at John and me because we were playing cards on the floor. John's Mom asked us to go outside and play. She said it nice, but something didn't feel right. She acted afraid. After John and I went outside, we could hear his Dad yelling at his Mom in a really mean way!

*Zach puts the ball down and puts an arm around Sarah.*

**Zach:** That sounds really scary. What happened after that?

**Sarah:** I don't know. I heard a loud noise like someone broke a dish. I was scared so I just ran home. I didn't know what to do.

**Zach:** Gosh! I'm sorry that happened. I don't like it when people say mean things to each other. Teacher said we should treat everyone the way we want to be treated.

**Sarah:** But Zach, this was John's Dad. Aren't grownups supposed to know better?

*Zach shrugs.*

**Zach:** I guess so, but sometimes grownups have problems too. I hope John's okay.

**Sarah:** Here he comes now!

**Zach:** Hey John! How's it going?

*John appears stage right.*

**John:** None of your business.

**Sarah:** John, I was scared yesterday. How come your Dad was yelling so much?

**John:** It's no big deal. He's always yelling about something! (*Defensive*)

**Zach:** I don't think it's okay when people aren't nice to each other, even if they are grownups.

**John:** I don't like it either. But what can I do about it?

**Sarah:** There must be something we can do!

**Zach:** Let's ask teacher. He always listens to us when something is wrong.

**Sarah:** Yeah! I always feel better when I talk to teacher or a grownup I know cares about me.

**John:** I don't think teacher likes me.

**Zach:** Yes he does. Just because you get in trouble sometimes doesn't mean teacher doesn't like you.

**John:** Okay, maybe I'll talk to him.

*Teacher appears stage left.*

**Teacher:** Hello students. I'm surprised you kids aren't playing kickball. I've never seen the three of you miss a chance to play kickball during recess.

**Sarah:** We were talking about something.

**Teacher:** Is there something I can help any of you with?

**John:** We're having a bad day because my Dad was mad and mean last night. He yelled at me and Sarah. He yelled at my Mom too! He even threw a bowl onto the floor and broke it.

**Sarah:** It was really scary. We don't know what to do.

**Teacher:** I'm glad you told me. It was a really good thing to do. It's really scary when adults fight. You know when parents have fighting problems it is never the children's fault.

*Teacher places one hand on Sarah's shoulder and one hand on John's shoulder.*

**Teacher:** Let's go inside so we can talk about this more. We'll also talk about how to keep safe when adults are fighting.

### **Facilitator Follow-up:**

#### **DISCUSSION IDEAS**

1. It sure is sad and scary when you see people fighting. I'm glad Sarah and John talked to their teacher. He probably has some good ideas about being safe.
2. It's a good idea to create a plan in your head in case something happens and you don't feel safe.
3. Let's bring back the kids and talk to them.

*(Puppets return)*

4. So John and Sarah, do you feel better after talking to the teacher?

*(Yes, he helped us make Safety Plans for when we don't feel safe.)*

5. Can you share your Safety Plans with the students here?

6. I'd just like to say that it's so nice to see the three of you being such good friends and helping each other out.
7. I think some of the students have some questions for you.

### SKIT 3 – THE PIZZA AND THE DOG

**Cast of Characters:**            **John**                            **Sarah**  
   **Madeline**                            **Zack**  
   **Dog**

*Three kids are standing around (stage left) talking about what they can do for fun. At stage right you see a fence, but no dog.*

**Madeline:** What should we do now that school is out?

**Zack:** What if we go to the park?

**Madeline:** Oh, Zack, That's a stupid idea! You always have stupid ideas.

**John:** Yeah. Hey, Madeline, I know what we can do! There's Zack's neighbor's house and their dumb dog. He always runs to the fence when we come by. I saved some pizza from my lunch. If you hold it out, he thinks he's going to get some, then you pull it back real quick and he can't get any. Dumb dog!

*As the children are talking, the dog pops up stage right of the fence. He is sniffing about and being dog like.*

**Zack:** I don't want to do that, John. That's mean. Besides, we could get in trouble. I think we should go to the park or do something else.

**Madeline:** You never want to do anything exciting, Zack. If you don't come with us, I'll never let you play with my gameboy again!

**John:** Come on! Let's go.

*Madeline and John move over to the fence at stage right. Zack follows but hangs back.*

**Dog:** Oh, some kids are coming and they have some pizza!

**John:** Madeline, watch this! *(He holds out the pizza. Just as the dog reaches for it, John jerks it back. He and Madeline start laughing.)*

**Dog:** *(Confused, the dog runs the fence barking.)* Ruff, ruff!

**Madeline:** Let me try, John! *(Trading the pizza, she does the same thing.)*

**Zack:** No, Madeline, no.

*John and Madeline begin passing the pizza back and forth, teasing the dog.*

**Dog:** These kids are so mean to me! Why are they teasing me with the pizza?

*Sarah walks up from stage left.*

**Sarah:** Madeline, John, what are you doing?

**John:** It's none of your business, Sarah!

**Sarah:** No, stop doing that! That's mean!

**Madeline:** Aw, Sarah, it's just a stupid dog.

**Sarah:** It is not just a stupid dog. You are hurting it's feelings. Come on Zack, we have to stop them!

**Facilitator:** Stop there you guys. Now let's talk about what you could do.

### **Facilitator Follow-Up**

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Kids, I need some help! What needs to be done now?
2. How do you think the dog feels? Are his feelings hurt? Do you think animals have feelings?
3. How should we treat animals? What should we do around animals we don't know?