

“What If” Situations Test (WIST-III-R)

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PRACTICE A: What if you were playing outside and you fell down and scraped your knee. Your teacher came over and said, “I need to look at your knee (name of child), to see if it needs a Band-Aid on it.”

A. Would it be OK for your teacher to look at your knee? YES/NO/DK (If YES, go to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette)

B. What would you say to your teacher?

C. What would you do?

D. Would you tell anyone that your teacher wanted to look at your knee? YES/NO/DK (If NO, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette) (If YES, “Who would you tell?” (Prompt ONCE: “Anyone else?”)

E. What would you say to [first person named above]?

PRACTICE B: What if a stranger asked you to go for a ride in her car.

A. Would it be OK for you to go with the stranger? YES/NO/DK (If YES, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette)

B. What would you say to the stranger?

C. What would you do?

D. Would you tell anyone that the stranger wanted you to go for a ride? YES/NO/DK (If NO, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette) (If YES, “Who would you tell?” (Prompt ONCE: “Anyone else?”)

E. What would you say to [first person named above]?

I. What if you were riding your tricycle and fell off and hurt your private parts. When you went home your mom or dad wanted to look at your private parts.

A. Would it be OK for your mom or dad to look at your private parts? YES/NO/DK (If YES, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette)

B. What would you say to your mom or dad?

C. What would you do?

D. Would you tell anyone that your mom or dad wanted to look at your private parts? YES/NO/DK (If NO, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette) (If YES; “Who would you tell?” [prompt ONCE: “anyone else?”]

E. What would you say to [first person named above]?

II. What if after you fell off your tricycle and hurt your private parts, your mom or dad took you to the doctor. The doctor said, “I need to touch your private parts, [name of child].”

A. Would it be OK for the doctor to touch your private parts? YES/NO/DK (If YES, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette)

B. What would you say to the doctor?

C. What would you do?

D. Would you tell anyone that the doctor wanted to touch your private parts? YES/NO/DK (If NO, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette) (If YES; “Who would you tell?” [prompt ONCE: “anyone else?”])

E. What would you say to [first person named above]?

III. What if a neighbor who is a big person who lives near you said to you, “Hey, [name of child], let’s play a real fun game! You take off all your clothes and I’ll take pictures of your private parts with my camera!”

A. Would it be OK for your neighbor to take pictures of your private parts? YES/NO/DK (If YES, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette)

B. What would you say to your neighbor?

C. What would you do?

D. Would you tell anyone that your neighbor wanted to take pictures of your private parts? YES/NO/DK (If NO, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette) (If YES; “Who would you tell?” [prompt ONCE: “anyone else?”])

E. What would you say to [first person named above]?

IV. What if you had a baby-sitter who said to you, “[name of child], I’ll let you stay up late to watch your favorite TV show, if you touch MY private parts for a little while.”

A. Would it be OK for you to touch your baby-sitter’s private parts? YES/NO/DK (If YES, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette)

B. What would you say to your baby-sitter?

C. What would you do?

D. Would you tell anyone that your baby-sitter wanted you to touch her private parts? YES/NO/DK (If NO, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette) (If YES; “Who would you tell?” [prompt ONCE: “anyone else?”])

E. What would you say to [first person named above]?

V. What if you were playing at the park and a man you like said to you, “Hey [name of child], I’ll go buy you an ice cream cone if you take off your pants and let me touch your private parts.”

A. Would it be OK for the man to touch your private parts? YES/NO/DK (If YES, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette)

B. What would you say to the man?

C. What would you do?

D. Would you tell anyone that the man wanted to touch your private parts? YES/NO/DK (If NO, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette) (If YES; “Who would you tell?” [prompt ONCE: “anyone else?”])

E. What would you say to [first person named above]?

VI. What if you had an owey on your private parts and it hurt real bad. Your mom or dad took you to the doctor’s office. The nurse, who helps the doctor, wanted to touch your private parts to put medicine on them.

A. Would it be OK for the nurse to touch your private parts? YES/NO/DK (If YES, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette)

B. What would you say to the nurse?

C. What would you do?

D. Would you tell anyone that the nurse wanted to touch your private parts? YES/NO/DK (If NO, go on to next vignette) (If DK, prompt once; if DK again, go on to next vignette) (If YES; “Who would you tell?” [prompt ONCE: “anyone else?”])

E. What would you say to [first person named above]?

SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS FROM PERSONAL SAFETY QUESTIONNAIRE

VII. What if a big person touched a kid’s private parts.

A. Has the kid done something wrong? YES/NO/DK

B. What if the big person says, “Don’t tell anyone…let’s keep this a secret.”

1. Should the kid tell someone? YES/NO/DK

VIII. What if you were in the bathtub and you were washing your body.

A. Would it be OK for you to touch your own private parts? YES/NO/DK

B. Do you like your private parts? YES/NO/DK

WIST-III-R SCORING GUIDELINES

Inappropriate-touch Vignettes (III, IV, V)

1. Would it be OK?

Yes or DK = 0; No = 1. Note: Appropriate-touch vignettes (I, II, VI) are only scored on this item (Yes = correct answer)

2. What would you say?

Definite Verbal Refusal = 2. Child definitely refuses to go along with the request. Acknowledges the inappropriateness of the request. States need to follow safety rule. Examples: No! No thanks. Don’t do that! Don’t touch me there. I won’t do it. That’s not right. You can’t. I’m not going to do it. Forget it! I have to ask my mom/dad.

Tentative Verbal Refusal = 1. Child tentatively refuses to go along with request through threats, excuses, or delays. Examples: I’m going to tell. I can’t. I don’t want to. Mom won’t let me. I don’t like it. I wanna go to bed (Baby-sitter vignette). That’s gross/ugly. Child tells the person to go away.

No Verbal Refusal = 0. Child does not refuse request, does not know what to say, or agrees to request. Child gives a behavioral response. Examples: I don’t know. Give me a dollar first. I’d put my clothes back on and run away. I would get out of there. Name calling (“Butthead”)

3. What would you do?

Definite Escape/Refusal = 2. Child *immediately* removes self from situation. Examples: I’d leave. I’d go home. I’d go tell. Get away. I would go call my mom/dad (baby-sitter vignette). I’d go to bed (baby-sitter). Call my mom/dad.

Vague Escape/Refusal = 1. Child describes a delayed escape, thus not immediately ending the situation. Gives vague descriptions of an escape/refusal. Examples: I’d tell on him. Tell mom. I wouldn’t do it. Ask mom/dad. Tell mom/dad when they got home (baby-sitter). Go to sleep (baby-sitter; unless they say, “I’d go to my room and go to sleep” = 2).

No escape/refusal = 0. Child remains in situation, or complies with request. Gives an aggressive response. Provides only verbal response. Examples: I wouldn’t do anything. I don’t know. Play with him. Hit him. I’d say NO. I’d put my clothes back on. Scream.

4. Who would you tell?

2 or more = 2 (parents count as 2)

1 person = 1 (or vague description; e.g., friend)

No one = 0

5. What would you say to person named above?

Person + Situation = 2. Child describes both the person and what had occurred. Examples: My baby-sitter wanted me to touch her p.p. (or my baby-sitter wanted to touch my p.p.). For Man in Park, accept Man, Big person, or Friend, for person, but not Stranger or Somebody, unless they say "Somebody in the park"). (For Neighbor, accept a Big Person, Man, or Guy) *Person or Situation = 1.* Examples: They took pictures of my private parts. Somebody wanted to touch my private parts. For Baby-sitter only: She wanted to touch my private parts, or She wanted me to touch her private parts. He/Someone wanted to touch my private parts (Man in Park). I don't like my baby-sitter. Who it was and what they tried to do. Somebody's trying to break my Body Safety Rule.

No Info = 0. Identity of person is inaccurate and description of situation is inaccurate. Examples: Somebody bothered me. I don't like it. They took pictures. Make them stop. Somebody touched my privates (Neighbor).

Description: The "What If" Situations Test (WIST-III-R) contains six scales designed to assess children's abilities to recognize, resist, and report inappropriate touching. Internal and test-retest reliabilities of the six scales met research standards, (Cronbach's alphas ranged from .75 to .90; Pearson r's ranged from .60 to .84) supporting the internal consistency and temporal stability of the WIST.

For more information on the psychometric properties of the WIST, see:

Wurtele, S.K., Hughes, J., & Owens, J.S. (1998). An examination of the reliability of the "What If" Situations Test: A brief report. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 7, 41-52.*