

PLAY TO LEARN: HEALTH & SAFETY

“CONSENT”

Written by

Sana Alimohamed

First draft - April 10, 2021

Logline: When Basma is uncomfortable having her hair touched, Louie helps empower her to speak up so they can change the game and all have a great time playing “Duck, Duck, Goose.”

Characters: BASMA, JAD, ELMO, LOUIE, ELEPHANT, TURTLE, CIRCLE  
GOAL: CONSENT

SHOW OPEN - BRIGHT COLOR CARD

As BASMA, JAD, and LOUIE run in carrying a rolled up MAT over their heads, we hear the Kid V.O.

1 KID (V.O)  
Are you ready to BE HEALTHY and SAFE?

Louie looks to camera and says the name of the episode.

2 LOUIE  
Today, Basma learns how to speak up for herself!

3 BASMA /JAD  
Yaay! /Woohoo!

As the mat settles, it wipes frame to:

EXT. PLAY AREA - DAY

As the rug settles to the ground, inviting everyone around to join, THREE CHICKENS shoot out from under it in various goofy ways...

4 CHICKENS  
BOK!/SQUAWK!/EEP!

Louie, Jad, and Basma all call out.

5 LOUIE/BASMA/JAD  
It's time to play, everybody!

Around the PTL park, ELMO, ELEPHANT, CIRCLE, and TURTLE look up from playing, excited.

6 ELMO / ELEPHANT / CIRCLE / TURTLE  
Yay!/ Yes!/ Woohoo! / Yeah!

They ZIP O.S.

CUT TO the Health and Safety mat as they are settling, seated, around the mat like kids at Circle Time.

7 JAD  
What should we play today?

8 CIRCLE  
Ooh! Ooh! A circle! Something in a circle!

Turtle jumps up.

9 TURTLE

Ah! I have a game! Let's play Duck Duck Animal!

10 ELEPHANT

Oh, yes! I know this one, Turtle! I can help!

11 TURTLE

Great, Elephant! We all sit in a circle, like this!

Everyone arranges themselves into a circle, facing in towards each other.

12 TURTLE (CONT)

Then, I go around like this, saying 'Duck', 'Duck', 'Duck'...

Turtle walks around, her hand hovering over each person's head as she says 'duck'. She approaches Elephant and taps her on the head as she says the next line--

13 TURTLE (CONT)

Cheetah!

14 ELEPHANT

*(daintily)*

Roar! Roar!

Elephant gets down on all fours, and chases Turtle around the circle.

15 ELEPHANT

*(As she runs)*

I'm trying to tag Turtle!

16 TURTLE

*(giggles)*

But even cheetahs can't catch meee!

Elephant trips and Turtle successfully sits in her old spot.

17 TURTLE (CONT)

If Elephant catches me, I have to go again! But since I got to her spot first, it's now her turn!

18 BASMA / JAD / CIRCLE / LOUIE

I like this game! / Cool! / Wheeeee! / Alright!

Elephant stands up and goes around the circle, hovering over her friends' heads as she says 'duck'.

19 ELEPHANT

Duck...duck...duck...duck...

Elephant approaches Basma and twirls one of her pigtails. She looks a little started, but doesn't say anything.

20 ELEPHANT (CONT)

Rabbit!

Basma rubs at her hair where the pigtail was twirled and then hops up and down, trying to catch Elephant.

21 BASMA

*(laughing)*

Come here, Elephant! Almost gotcha! Whoops, nope.

Elephant successfully sits down in Basma's old spot.

22 BASMA (CONT)

My turn! Duck...duck...duck...duck...duck...

Basma takes a little bit longer. She taps Circle.

23 BASMA (CONT)

Armadillo!

24 CIRCLE

Woahh Hoho! Imma roll just like an armadillo!

Circle rolls after Basma. He catches up to her and pulls her pigtail with his mouth. Basma rubs her head where Circle pulled it.

25 BASMA

Sorry everyone...I know it's my turn, but I don't want to play anymore. Maybe Jad can go for me?

Basma sadly walks off, holding onto her pigtails.

26 CIRCLE

Basma? Why's she rounded *down*?

27 LOUIE

Hmm, I'm not sure what's wrong, Circle. You kids keep playing, let me go check on Basma.

Basma is sitting next to the side of a tree. Her knees are tucked up and she's sniffing, her hands still protectively on her pigtails.

28 LOUIE (CONT)

Hey Basma--it's Louie. Can we talk?

29 BASMA

*(softly)*

Yeah.

30 LOUIE

You looked like you were having fun, but then you walked away from the game. What's going on?

31 BASMA

I *was* having fun. I just..sometimes...I *really* don't like it when someone pulls on my pigtails.

32 LOUIE

Ah. Well that makes sense.

33 BASMA

It does? *You* don't have pigtails.

34 LOUIE

*(laughs)*

No, but I *do* have a body. Your hair is a part of your body. If you don't want someone to touch your body, you can say so.

35 BASMA

But sometimes I don't mind it, either.

36 LOUIE

That's okay too! Only *you* get to decide what a safe touch is for you. If the touch does feel safe, then you can say yes! If the touch does *not* feel safe, then you *always* say no.

37 BASMA

That's okay?.

38 LOUIE

It's absolutely okay! It's important to let others know how you feel so they can be better friends to you. When touching your body, your friends should ask for permission.

39 BASMA  
Can we practice?

40 LOUIE  
Of course.

CONSENT SONG: Words for standing up for yourself.

Louie begins singing by himself, but Basma joins in, getting louder and louder, until *she's* the one leading the song.

Basma grins at LOUIE.

41 BASMA  
I'm ready, Louie. Let's go back and play!

They walk back to find Jad chasing Elmo. Jad is flapping his hands like a bird.

42 JAD  
Caw! Caw! Oops.

Elmo successfully sits down.

43 ELMO  
(giggles)  
Better luck next time, Goose!  
(Sees Basma)  
Ooh! Basma's back!

44 LOUIE  
Basma would like to say something.

45 BASMA  
Hi everyone. Please ask me before touching my hair. I *really* don't like it when someone pulls it.

46 CIRCLE  
Oh! I'm sorry Basma!

47 ELEPHANT  
Me too...I didn't pull, but I definitely touched your hair without asking.

48 BASMA

Thanks for your apologies! I really want to play, so maybe we can change the game?

49 JAD / ELEPHANT / CIRCLE / ELMO

Absolutely/ Yes! / Let's change it! / We want you to play!

50 BASMA

How about instead of touching someone's hair or head, we touch their shoulder?

51 JAD

That's a great new rule! Why don't you start us off, Basma? I took your turn.

52 BASMA

Okay! Duck...duck...duck...

Basma approaches Turtle and taps her on the shoulder.

53 BASMA (CONT)

Frog!

Turtle gets down on all four and hops.

54 TURTLE

*(giggles)*

Ribbit Ribbit!

Turtle catches up to Basma with one big leap. She reaches out a hand to touch Basma on the head, but remembers, and taps her on the shoulder instead.

55 BASMA

*(laughs)*

Hehe, I'm it! Nice safe touch, Turtle. Thanks everyone, for changing the game!

56 LOUIE

And thank *you* Basma for speaking up and letting us know how you feel.