



## **The Kids on the Block Program on Physical Abuse**

**Featuring: (from l to r) Joanne Spinoza, Stephen Arthurs and Nam Nguyen**

When 10 year old Stephen Arthurs discovered that discipline at his friends' homes doesn't involve beatings where bruises and cuts are left behind, he realized what was happening at his house wasn't usual. He decided to take steps to help himself and his mother by telling his teacher. He and his family are now working things out in family counseling. **The Kids on the Block Program on Physical Abuse** was developed in conjunction with the California Child Protective Services to help children discuss physical abuse in a clear and nonthreatening way. Specific issues such as the difference between discipline and abuse, how and who to tell, Stephen's love for his mother despite disliking what she does, and family counseling are discussed within the program.

The complete curriculum consists of large hand-crafted puppets, four scripts, props, follow-up activities and resources to teach children about physical abuse.



**CALL OR WRITE TODAY  
THE KIDS ON THE BLOCK, INC.**

**1-800-368-KIDS**

**9385-C Gerwig Lane, Columbia, Maryland 21046**

**(410)290-9095 FAX:(410)290-9358**

**www.kotb.com**

# Script Summaries

## Open House

As Diane and Nam arrive at the open house at their school, they see Stephen and his mother. Nam tells Diane he heard a rumor about Stephen. The rumor was that Stephen's mother hits him so hard that he has scars on his face and arms. When Nam confronts Stephen about this, he is surprised by the response. Stephen outlines the steps which were taken so he and his family could get help. **(Stephen, Nam, *Diane Delaney is optional*)**

## Hotline

Nam is still confused about what child abuse is and isn't. Thinking that his parents are "doing child abuse" to him, Nam interrupts Stephen's homework session. Stephen invites Nam over and helps him understand a little more about abuse. **(Stephen, Nam)**

## Keep Telling

Joanne has a lot of questions for Stephen about his abusive situation at home. She wants to know how he told about what was happening. Stephen explains and emphasizes the importance of continuing to tell until someone believes and can help. **(Stephen, Joanne)**

## Working On It

Joanne comes home to find Stephen sitting on her front stoop. Stephen's mother had lost her temper with him and, Stephen, fearing that his mom would hit him, decided to go to Joanne's house. Together, Joanne and Stephen discuss his situation and how it's really important to take one day at a time. **(Stephen, Joanne)**

**NOTE: After each script the children in the audience are given the opportunity to ask their own questions directly to the puppet characters.**

**The Kids on the Block**, created in 1977, features life size puppets who, through the magic of live puppet theatre, teach children and adults about disabilities, medical and educational differences, and social concerns. Through the hard work and dedication of many community based groups, **The Kids on the Block** puppets are able to touch the lives of people all over the world.