

Book Review

Tears of Joy. by Barbara J. Behm
Wayward Publishing, Thiensville, WI 1999
Reviewed by: Joan Alford

Tears of Joy is a story about a little girl name Carly. It starts out describing Carly as a beautiful happy, baby girl, and how she was growing up to be such a joyous girl and how everyone loved her. One day Carly gets very silent and sad. She doesn't talk to anyone, she doesn't play with her toys or read her books. She surrounds herself with her stuffed animals all around the edges of her bed so they will protect her and keep all the world away. Everyone asks her what is wrong and she won't talk to anyone or tell them what is wrong. Finally, her teacher takes her to the school counselor and by using a puppet for Carly to talk to, she discloses that her father is sexually abusing her. The counselor tells her how brave she has been to tell and that she will help her family.

This book could be used with any child at the preschool and elementary level to help them understand feelings associated with sexual abuse. It could also be used in a sexual abuse prevention program. I like the fact that the back of the book also has guidance for counselors, teachers, and parents to understand the definition of sexual abuse and what to do to help the child.