

# NEAR MISSES OUTSIDE OF THE WORKPLACE

To illustrate how a near miss can prevent damage or injury, it might be easier to look at a hypothetical example outside of the workplace.

## **The Near Miss Occurs**

You tell your teenage son (let's call him Junior) to wash the dishes. Junior drops a carving knife while loading the dishwasher. The knife falls to the ground and lands blade-down on the kitchen floor, just missing the foot of Junior's little sister, Suzie, by a few centimeters.

That is a Near Miss. As a parent, you will want to know what happened so you can take steps to ensure it doesn't happen again. But will Junior or Suzie tell you about the incident?



## **Junior and Suzie Decide Whether to Report It**

It depends. Through life experience and social conditioning, children are encouraged not to report situations that cast a "supposedly" negative light on themselves or anyone else. And, in many families, there's an unwritten code among siblings to keep misbehavior a secret and not "be a tattletale to mom and dad."

The motivation for such behavior is to protect oneself and one's siblings from punishment. But there are ways to defuse this. One way is to persuade your children to always tell the truth and promise they won't be punished for doing so.

