

## The Little Boy at the Beach

A little boy was playing happily at the beach next to the water. His mother sat next to him on a blanket. He played for an hour or so, making sandcastles, his back to the surf and birds.

All of a sudden a large boat went by and created a large wave that came up to shore...but the boy didn't see it coming.

The wave crashed over him, knocking him down, causing him to take in a gulp of water, too. He immediately started crying. His mother, trying to calm the boy down, took him away from the shore immediately.

They went up on the boardwalk. After a few minutes the boy calmed down and the mother gathered up their things and went home. They did not return to the beach for 3 months. Then they returned...

*What do you think happened when they went to go down near to the water?*

Yes, the boy screamed and cried, wanting to go back to the car. He was terrified of going anywhere near the water.

So- although in the short run, the boy calmed down by being taken off the beach – in the long run, his fear of the situation was solidified and maybe increased... when, if a slow reintroduction of the surf was done at the time, he could have quickly learned to enjoy his play again.