

Presentation to Children (Pre-School through 6th Grade)

Personal Safety Awareness

Goals:

Children will participate in a presentation and discussion on safe touch and relationships with other children/youth and adults.

Children will identify trusted persons in their lives that they can talk to.

Resource Materials:

Videos: These videos are available in the Diocesan Resource Center, or you can order a copy for your parish or school. Prices and ordering information are attached.

Pre-K Joey Learns the Touching Rule (8 minutes)

Note: Only one copy available, cannot be purchased separately from the Talking About Touching curriculum

Grades 1-3 What Tadoo (18 minutes)

Grades 2-6 Yes, You Can Say No (19 minutes)

Grades 2-6 What Tadoo About Secrets (19 minutes)

Note to Presenter: The video “Yes, You Can Say No” features a boy as the primary potential victim. In using these videos, you will need to introduce the subject by having the children think about what is happening in the story based on the idea that the child involved could be either a boy or a girl.

A more detailed description of each of the videos is attached, in case you would like to send the description with the parent letter in introducing the program to parents.

Books: This book is available in the Diocesan Resource Center

Creating Safe and Sacred Places (especially for use in creating sessions for older youth)

Also, there is an accompanying list of book resources for use in reading to children, or for parents, teachers or counselors to use in helping to identify ways to assist children with personal safety, which are all available in the Resource Center.

Curriculum: These programs are available in the Diocesan Resource Center. These programs are particularly appropriate for use in the school setting, where more time can be devoted to the issue, because they are presented in a series of lessons that would take more time that would be available in the religious education setting. Nevertheless, these materials are available for use by anyone to be used as appropriate.

Talking About Touching (pre-K to 1st grade) (Comes with picture cards, a story book called Sam's Story, and a tape)

C.A.R.E. Kit Personal Safety Curriculum (Comes with picture cards and detailed instructions for how to present the information to children)

Length of Required Presentation: One hour or less in presentation (may be done in two or three sessions depending upon the setting, and the choice of the individual parish or school)

- I. Opening Prayer (5 minutes)
- II. Introduction (5 minutes)

Note: Some of the videos have discussion guides that provide additional material that can be used for an introduction.

- A. Our parish (or school) is working very hard to make sure you are safe, especially when you are involved in our programs.
- B. The purpose of our time together, e.g., *Today we are going to see a movie and talk about skills we need to protect ourselves and deal with every day challenges,* or *Today we are going to talk about the touching rule.*

Although the actor in this movie is a boy talking about what happened to him, girls may also encounter this same problem.

- C. Does anyone know the touching rule? (Discussion)
- III. Video presentation (noted on the videos above)
- IV. Discussion (15 minutes)

After the presentation lead the children in a discussion. This discussion could take place in small groups with an adult leader or catechist. If parents attend the session, they should be included in the discussion.

Direct the discussion using sample questions such as:

- A. What are private body parts? *Parts of the body covered with a bathing suit. Children can also use correct names for body parts and should be encouraged to do so if they use a slang term. Explain this by saying that some families use different words for body parts, but if we use the correct terms, everyone will understand it the same way.*
- B. Why are boys and girls sometimes afraid to tell a parent or another adult when someone wants them to do something they don't want to do? *Afraid*

of telling on a “friend”, afraid of being hurt (retribution) or injury to another family member, they are confused, afraid they will be blamed or not believed, embarrassed, etc.

- C. Was the problem the child’s fault? *It is never the child’s fault.*
 - D. What clues in the video told you that the child should tell a trusted adult about the problem?
 - E. How can you know when something is wrong or that you are uncomfortable? *Some signs: queasy stomach, feeling like you want to run away, trying to ignore the behavior as though it did not happen, trying to forget about it, just being uncomfortable. Every child is different, and just because you do not feel the way you “think” you should feel, does not mean nothing is wrong.*
 - F. How do you say no to someone who wants you to break the touching rule? *Stand tall, look her/him straight in the eyes, and say no. Repeat if you need to. Get away from the situation and the person if you can. Go tell someone as soon as possible about what happened.*
 - G. What would you say to a friend if they told you someone touched them in a way that broke the touching rule? *Remind children that they should tell their parents, a teacher, or a trusted adult, so that their friend could receive help even if the person touching them asked the child to keep it a secret. Secrets that are harmful to someone should not be kept a secret.*
 - H. Who are the adults in your life that you can trust to tell something to and that they would help you if you had a problem?
 - I. Ask the children if they have questions about what was discussed. *Remind the children that they can always ask you or their parents any questions about the touching rule.*
 - J. Thank the children for learning how to handle challenges in their lives and for learning how they might be able to help a friend.
- V. Closing Prayer (5 minutes)
Close with a prayer for people who are alone, unhappy, or have been hurt by others.