



**VIRTUS® Teaching Safety
Empowering God's Children™
Program**

Teaching Safety Program for Children

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VIRTUS Online™ – Educator Tab

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Educators	
Lesson Plans	<h3>Teaching Safety - Empowering God's Children</h3> <p>Welcome to the Educator's page on the VIRTUS <i>Online</i> system. This page is your starting point for teaching children about child sexual abuse. This page is your starting point for the curriculum to school age children.</p> <p>Here are some prerequisite steps to help get you started:</p> <p>Step 1: Read the Overview and Founding Principles of the <i>Teaching Safety</i> program. The Overview refers to several guiding documents provided by the program to help you work comfortably within your role as a support to parents.</p> <p>Click here to read or print the Overview.  (Spanish version)</p> <p>Step 2: Read <i>Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide</i> (booklet, revised 2014) through the new Protecting God's Children program for parents. This program provides parents with conversations with their children about the dangers of child sexual abuse, warning signs of abuse, and to help parents to better evaluate and support parents in this critical undertaking, it is important for parents to be aware (or at least should be) having with their children, and the role of educators in their children.</p> <p>Click here to read or print Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide</p>
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Teaching Safety™ Program

Step 1: Overview

- An overview of the Teaching Safety – Empowering God’s Children program.
- Program is continually being updated, so this overview is revised to reflect the updates as needed.



Step 1: Read the Overview and Founding Principles of the *Teaching Safety - Empowering God's Children* Program (Overview). The Overview refers to several guiding documents provided by the Catholic Church and explains the distinctions you'll need to help you work comfortably within your role as a support to parents in educating children about preventing sexual abuse.

 [Click here to read or print the Overview.](#)  [\(Spanish version\)](#)

Step 2: Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide™

- Guide is intended for Lesson Leaders, Parents, and Caring Adults.
- Reviews Boundaries, Safe Friends and Safe Adults, Difference Between Safe and Unsafe Touches. Teaching What to Do if Touched in an Unsafe Manner.
- Available to print in English and Spanish.

Step 2: Read *Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide* (booklet, revised 2016). This booklet is the primary resource to parents provided through the new Protecting God's Children program for parents. The booklet is designed to help parents have frank and effective conversations with their children about the dangers of child sexual abuse and to help parents educate their children about the warning signs of abuse, and to help parents to better evaluate the safety of those who interact with their children. Because educators support parents in this critical undertaking, it is important for you to understand the types of conversations that parents are (or at least should be) having with their children, and the types of structures that you can help parents create in protecting their children.

 [Click here to read or print *Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide*.](#)  [\(Spanish version\)](#)

After you've finished reading the *Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide* booklet, click the continue button, below, to access the correct lesson plan and other supporting materials.




Teaching Safety™ Program

Step 3: Opt-out Form

- Opt-out form available to send home, and please feel free to include the Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide (printed version or via email).
- If a child is opted out of the program, please feel free to also send home the lesson plan scheduled for the year.
- The English version uploaded is the current diocesan form.
- Click on [Continue](#) within the tab to access the Lessons.

Step 3: Parental disclosure is critical to the success of this program. Before you schedule this lesson, make sure you have followed your school's/diocese's instructions regarding the opt-out process. We recommend that educators send a copy of the opt-out form home to parents, along with a copy of the Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide, approximately one week prior to the scheduled lesson. If a child's parents opts that child out of the lesson, your school will need to accommodate that child while his or her classmates are involved in the lesson.

If your school is participating in the opt-out process, but has not provided you with an opt-out form to use, you may use the model opt-out form that we've provided. However, we urge you to seek appropriate approval before using it. Then, you can simply fill in the blanks and make a copy to send home with each student, along with a copy of the Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide-- assuming your school has approved the form and the process.  [\(Opt-out form\)](#) [\(Spanish version\)](#)

[Continue](#)



Empowering God's Children

Age Appropriate Lesson Plans

- Select the grade level from the drop-down menu.
- Click Continue to proceed.

Teaching Safety — Empowering God's Children — Select An Age Group

Now that you've read the *Overview* and the *Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guideem*> booklet, it's time to learn more about your lesson plan. First, you'll need to identify the age group that you're teaching. There are 4 possible age groups:

- Grades K through 2
- Grades 3 through 5
- Grades 6 through 8
- Grades 9 through 12

Use the drop-down menu below to select the correct age level of your students. After you've selected the correct age group, click the continue button.

-- Select -- ▼

Continue



Empowering God's Children

Age Appropriate Lesson Plans

- Select the lesson needed and then click Continue (additional lessons will be added to the dropdown when accessible).

Teaching Safety — Empowering God's Children — Select A Lesson

You've selected Grades K through 2

Next, you'll want to become familiar with the structure of the lesson plans. As previously stated, this program and each included lesson are founded on the principles of appropriate relationship boundaries within the context of Church teachings. All lessons are age-appropriate and help children develop the vocabulary and boundary distinctions necessary to empower them to begin to recognize inappropriate behavior by others, while practicing appropriate relationship boundaries in their own lives. Each lesson will take approximately 45 minutes to an hour to complete.

It's time to select the specific lesson that you're teaching from the following choices:

- Lesson 1 - The Touching Safety Rules
- Lesson 2 - Understanding Safe Friends, Safe Adults, and Safe Touches
- Lesson 3 - Boundaries

Use the drop-down menu below to select the correct lesson for your students. After you've selected the correct lesson plan, click the continue button.

Lesson 1 - The Touching Safety Rules ▼

Continue

Age Appropriate Lesson Plans

- Review overview of the lesson plans and click on the arrow to access the actual lesson, in English or Spanish.

Teaching Safety — Empowering God's Children — Lesson Plan

You've selected Lesson 1 - The Touching Safety Rules for Grades K through 2.

This lesson includes the following:

- An appropriate reflection from the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- A goal, including expected learning outcomes
- An overview for creating a successful learning experience for the specific age group
- Key vocabulary words and definitions that apply to the lesson
- Suggested activities, with instructions
- A closing prayer that reflects the key message of the lesson


These lessons focus on an age-appropriate discussion of touching safety, relative to the specific roles that different people play in a child's life. All of the lessons stress the importance of keeping private body parts "private."

IMPORTANT:

Educators must remember that the lesson plans are designed for you. **Do not distribute the lesson plans to your students.**

All of the components of the lesson plan that precede the activities are designed to help give you the perspective you'll need to help your students have a more meaningful learning experience.



Click the arrow to view or print Lesson 1 - The Touching Safety Rules.  [\(Click here for Spanish\)](#)

After you've printed and reviewed the lesson plan, click the continue button, below.

Age Appropriate Lesson Plans

- Within the lesson plan are several activities.
- Choose the activities that best fit your plan and timeframe.
- A prayer is available within each lesson.

ACTIVITY OPTION #1: Play the (optional) introductory video as an icebreaker

The introductory video for children and youth in this age range is designed to open a simple discussion about personal boundary safety. The video is brief and is not intended to be a substitute for the lesson itself. It's merely an introduction designed to "break the ice" and assist the transition of completing the interactive Lesson Activity options. If the video is shown as an optional activity, please use in conjunction with one of the additional activity options, because discussion and practice are the critical components needed to teach children and youth how to protect themselves. They learn best by "doing"; not just listening.

ACTIVITY OPTION #2: Review and discuss key vocabulary words

End the lesson with a prayer

The Lesson Leader may invite the children to create their own prayer, he/she may lead a prayer, or may use the suggested prayer below.

*Dear God,
Sometimes when things happen, I get scared. Sometimes I just get mixed up—like when a person I care about does something that makes me feel uncomfortable or scared. When that happens, help me remember that I am special and give me courage to tell an adult what happened. Thank you for loving me and for giving me safe adults and parents who want to keep me safe and happy.
Amen*

Power to Protect DVD/USB

- “Breaking the Ice”
 - Sensitive Subject Manner
 - Six to Seven Minutes per Age Group
- Age Appropriate
 - Grades K – 5
 - Grades 6 – 8
 - Grades 9 – 12
- Accessible on the Educator Tab
 - Click on the video within the left-hand side of tab
 - DVD/USB Drive are available for purchase



Power To Protect

K - 5 (English)

6 - 8 (English)

9 - 12 (English)

K - 5 (Spanish)

6 - 8 (Spanish)

9 - 12 (Spanish)

Record Training

- Record Children's Program Training
 - Add a new training record
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- Children's Program Training Records
 - Trained
 - Opt Out
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 - By Location

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VIRTUS[®]Online

Toolbox | **Educators**

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Record Children's Program Training

Program name: (For dioceses using other programs enter the name of your program.)

Where the training occurred:

School type:

When the training was conducted:

Who conducted the training:

Age/grade of children:

Lesson number:

Number of children trained:

Number of children **opted out**: (optional - enter 0 for none, leave blank for no response)

Number of children **absent**: (optional - enter 0 for none, leave blank for no response)

Total number of children:

Comments:

Recording Training

Select the Educator Tab, Click on Record Training, then click on 'Add a new training record'

Training Educators
Pat Neal
Diocese of Jackson

Educators

Lesson Plans
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 Reporting Disclosures
 Where to Report

Record Children's Program Training

Children's Program Training Records

From: To:

Location:

Age/grade of children:

Lesson number:

Program	Location	School Type	Date Trained	Trained By	Age/Grade	Lesson	Trained	Opt Out	Absent	Total	Notes
Empowering God's Children	Annunciation Elementary School, Columbus	Catholic School	08/24/2018	Erin Test	K - 2nd	2	35	1	0	36	📄
Empowering God's Children	Annunciation Elementary School, Columbus	Catholic School	08/21/2018	Brett Test	3rd - 5th	2	24	2	1	27	📄
							59	3	1	63	

Recording Training

Fill in the fields pertinent to the training session, then click on 'Record training'.

Record Children's Program Training Use the Edit Mode button or click the New button to create a new record.

Program name: (For dioceses using other programs, select the appropriate program from the dropdown menu.)

Where the training occurred:

School type:

When the training was conducted:

Who conducted the training:

Age/grade of children:

Lesson number:

Number of children trained:

Number of children opted out: (optional - enter 0 for none, leave blank for no response)

Number of children absent: (optional - enter 0 for none, leave blank for no response)

Total number of children: 27

Comments:

Recording Training

Review the entries with the ability to ‘Go Back’ to make corrections prior to clicking on ‘Record Training’. If a correction is needed after recording the training, please contact the diocesan office.

Please confirm your record of Children’s Program Training:

Program name: Empowering God’s Children
 Where: All Saints Church (Belzoni)
 School type: Religious Education
 When: 8/30/2018
 By: Pat Educator
 Age / Grade: K - 2nd
 Lesson number: 1
 Number of children trained: 25
 Number of children opted out: 1
 Number of children absent: 1
 Total number of children: 27
 Comments: Held in Auditorium.

<u>Program</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>School Type</u>	<u>Date Trained</u> ▾	<u>Trained By</u>	<u>Age / Grade</u>	<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Trained</u>	<u>Opt Out</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Empowering God’s Children	All Saints Church, Belzoni	Religious Education	08/30/2018	Pat Educator	K - 2nd	1	25	1	1	27	

Recording Training

Filters are available to sort by date, location, age/grade, and/or lesson plan. Totals are shown at the bottom of the training records. Please note that all recorded training will be viewed by all Educators that have access to the Educator Tab.

Thank you!

Children's Program Training Records											
From:		<input type="text" value="7/1/2018"/>		To:	<input type="text" value="6/30/2019"/>						
Location:		<input type="text" value="Annunciation Elementary School, Columbus"/>									
Age/grade of children:		<input type="text" value="- All -"/>									
Lesson number:		<input type="text" value="- All -"/>	<input type="button" value="Go"/>								
<u>Program</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>School Type</u>	<u>Date Trained</u> ▼	<u>Trained By</u>	<u>Age / Grade</u>	<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Trained</u>	<u>Opt Out</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Empowering God's Children	Annunciation Elementary School, Columbus	Catholic School	08/24/2018	Erin Test	K - 2nd	2	35	1	0	36	
Empowering God's Children	Annunciation Elementary School, Columbus	Catholic School	08/21/2018	Brett Test	3rd - 5th	2	24	2	1	27	
							59	3	1	63	