VIRTUS® Teaching Safety
Empowering God’s Children™ Program
Empowering God’s Children

Teaching Safety Program for Children

- VIRTUS Online™ – Educator Tab
- Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide™
- Age Appropriate Lesson Plans
- Power to Protect™ Videos
- Record Training
VIRTUS Online™ – Educator Tab

- Step 1: Overview
- Step 2: Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide
- Step 3: Opt Out Form
- Lesson Plans
- Links to the Videos
- Record Training
- Supplemental Material
- Links to KidSmartz and NetSmartz
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)
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: Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide™

- 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.
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)
Age Appropriate Lesson Plans

- Select the grade level from the drop-down menu.
- Click **Continue** to proceed.
Age Appropriate Lesson Plans

- Select the lesson needed and then click Continue (additional lessons will be added to the dropdown when accessible).
• Review overview of the lesson plans and click on the arrow to access the actual lesson, in English or Spanish.
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
Empowering God’s Children

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
• Record Children’s Program Training
  • Add a new training record
  • Record training
• Children’s Program Training Records
  • Trained
  • Opt Out
  • Absent
  • By Location
Select the Educator Tab, Click on Record Training, then click on ‘Add a new training record’
Fill in the fields pertinent to the training session, then click on 'Record 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.

Go back  Record 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!