



Catholic Safe Environment Curriculum

Lower Elementary (K-2nd)

2015/2016

Note to Teacher/Catechist: Begin and end the lesson with the suggested prayer that is derived from the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This is a great opportunity to introduce your group one of the doctrine documents of our faith. You can display a copy of the Catechism of the Catholic Church as a visual aid.

Opening Prayer Doctrinal Connection (CCC 2172 and 336)

(Have the children repeat each sentence after you.)

+ Dear God,

Your action is our model, keeping us safe. Your angels protect us, keeping us safe. Your love surrounds us, keeping us safe. Amen. +

Safe Actions

Safe Touch

Safe touches do not cause harm to you. Safe Touches are gentle and kind. High Fives, Handshakes, and Hugs can be safe touches. But, if someone is trying to harm you, they can be unsafe.

- a. Partner the children. Have them give one another a nice, safe, High five, handshake, and hug. Redirect any aggressive actions and remind them that safe touch is gently.

Safe Rules

There are 3 basic rules for staying safe. Print the following rules on the board.

1. NO
2. GO

3. TELL

Have the children repeat the rules several times.

Tell the children that you are going to read a question to them. They need to CLAP three times if they think the action is safe or yell “NO, GO, TELL” if it is not a safe action. You may want the children to stand for this activity if they are getting restless in their seats or on the carpet.

- a. What if a grownup asks you to keep a birthday present a secret? (clap)
- b. What if a grownup offers you a treat and tells you NOT to tell your parents? (NO, GO, TELL)
- c. What if a grownup touches you and it makes you feel icky? (NO, GO, TELL)
- d. What if someone accidentally bumps into you and says “I’m Sorry?” (clap)
- e. What if you hear someone calling your friend names? (NO, GO, TELL)
- f. What if your grandma tucks you in and kisses your forehead (clap)

Safe Adults

Who

Safe adults do not hurt children. Safe adults do not call names. Safe adults follow the rules. Safe adults keep you healthy. Safe adults do not ask you to keep secrets or make you feel icky. Have the children talk about who their safe adults and friends are. Unsafe adults hurt children. Unsafe adults call children names. Unsafe adults make you feel icky and unsafe. Unsafe adults break the rules. Unsafe adults want you to keep secrets you’re your parents.

- a. Talk with the children about what they should do if someone is acting unsafe or behaving badly. Assign groups or partners. Tell the group that you will read 5 statements. After you read a statement, give the groups about 2 minutes to talk about what they should do and what safe adult they would tell. Have each group share.
 - a. Someone offers you a ride home without telling your parents.
 - b. A friend invites you to come over, but their parents will not be home.
 - c. Someone is bullying you or someone else
 - d. Someone is hurting you or a friend.
 - e. A friend encourages you to break the rules at home.
- b. Display a poster board or use the white board. Draw a large heart in the center – large enough for each child write the name of one adult in their life that is safe. Invite each child to the poster, offer them a marker, and have each child print the name of a safe adult in their life. Display the poster in your classroom if possible or in the Catechetical office.

Safe Places

Where

Safe places are open areas, with windows, doors, and most importantly people that are safe that can help. Safe places are not hiding places. Safe places are all around us and everywhere we go. There are safe places at school, church, in our neighborhoods, and in public places.

Have the children take turns naming a safe place at their school or neighborhood or church or in public places. Some examples might be: office, library, home, classroom with a teacher, neighbor if they know them really well, store with employees. Remind the children that safe places have to have safe adults that can help if needed.

Distribute the drawing page. Have the children draw a picture of the safe place labeled in each area. Children that prefer to write can jot down a sentence or two about the specific place. Encourage the children to take the drawings home and share with their parents why these places are safe and how they would ask for help if they needed it.

Safe “Surfing”

Cyber space is wonderful. Children are going on line at a younger and younger age. Along with the great opportunities for learning and fun found online, we have to be aware of the dangers as well. Downloading Apps, Gaming, Learning sites, shopping, and “surfing” are daily activities for most of the children in your class or group. Social Networking and Media should NOT be utilized by ANY members in your group or class. Making the children aware of how to be safe on-line is one tool they can use to help protect them.

Cyber “Stranger Danger” - There are NO boundaries on the Internet!

Online strangers can be as dangerous as talking to a stranger in real life. People that are online can be posing as another person, sometimes as a child, to gain your trust. Cyber-strangers need to be avoided. Do not “friend” strangers on apps or games. Always follow the rules of the sites. Ask permission BEFORE you buy or download anything online. Never answer emails from strangers. ALWAYS tell your parents if someone is acting shady on line or asking for you to give them personal information.

Safety Review

Distribute the Take Home Safety Review sheet. If you have time in class, complete it together. For older children, ask them to work in partners. If time is limited, send it home and ask the children to complete it with their families.

Closing Prayer

Gather the children in the prayer space. The following prayer can be used as a guide or you may choose to use your own similar prayer. Have the children echo after you. Then, give each child the take home activity sheet to follow up as a family.

+ Dear God,

Help us to remember to say No. (children echo NO)

Help us to remember to Go away. (children echo GO)

Help us to remember to Tell our safe adults. (children echo TELL)

AMEN +