

How Do I Access Children's VIRTUS Lessons?

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.

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Rosie Francka
Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO

Educators

Lesson Plans

Touching Safety

Welcome to the Educator's page on the VIRTUS Online system. This page is for teachers, religious educators and others involved in warning children about child sexual abuse. This page is your starting point for teaching the *Touching Safety* curriculum to school age children.

Here are some prerequisite steps to help get you started:

Step 1: Read the Overview and Founding Principles of the *Touching Safety* 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: 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: The Virtus Touching Safety lessons are mandated for children in grades Kindergarten through Twelve attending parish religious education programs and Catholic schools. One lesson is taught in the fall and a second lesson is taught in spring. The lessons are presented on a four year rotating cycle. Consult the diocese if you are unsure of the lesson for this academic year. Since the lessons are part of the regular curriculum, parishes and schools are not to send a permission form or special letter to parents regarding the safe environment lessons. The opt out form is not to be automatically sent home each year. The opt out form is used only if a parent tells the parish they do not want their child trained, and after a parent has reviewed the lessons and spoken to the pastor about why they do not want their child trained. Our diocesan opt out form is attached. [\(Opt-out form\)](#)

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Touching Safety — Select An Age Group

Now that you've read the Overview and the *Teaching Touching Safety* 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.

Grades K through 2 ▾

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Lesson Plans

TTSG Brochure

English
Spanish

Supplemental Activities

Online Awareness Information

What is Sex Abuse?

Behavioral Indicators
Physical Indicators
Adolescent Indicators
Teen Female Indicators

Reporting Sex Abuse

Disclosures of Abuse
Responding to Disclosures
Reporting Disclosures
Where to Report

Links to USCCB

Child and Youth Protection
Charter for the Protection of
Children and Young People
Essential Norms
Studies of Abuse
Safe Environment Programs

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

KidSmartz
NetSmartz

Touching Safety — 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
- Lesson 4 - Telling Someone You Trust
- Lesson 5 - Grooming—Recognizing risky adult behavior: Part I
- Lesson 6 - Grooming—Recognizing risky adult behavior: Part II
- Lesson 7 - Internet Safety
- Lesson 8 - Creating and Following Family Rules

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 2 - Understanding Safe Friends, Safe Adults, and Safe Touches ▾

Continue

Choose Lesson

Click continue

This process will need to be repeated for each grade level.