

How to Access Introductory Video for Children's VIRTUS training?

Step 1: Go to:

www.virtusonline.org

Step 2: Log into your VIRTUS account and click on the Educator Tab. If you do not have the Educator Tab, contact our office.

Step 3: The videos can be found here by selecting Elementary (Grades K-5), Middle School (Grades 6-8), and High School (Grades 9-12). These videos may be used as an introduction to the Children's lessons. The lessons listed under "English" are all English and the same for Spanish.

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

VIRTUS[®]Online

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Teaching Safety - Empowering God's Children

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 *Teaching Safety - Empowering God's Children* 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 *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: 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 Teaching Safety - Empowering God's Children 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. [\(Opt-out form\)](#)

Continue

**Step 2: Log into your
Virtus Account**