

Building Boundaries: Called to Protect for Young Children

Information for Parents

Called to Protect for Young Children has been specifically developed to teach children from pre-school through fifth grade skills how to help keep safe. Child molesters are skilled at “grooming” children, making friends with them, finding ways to be alone with them, and convincing them that the molester really cares for them.

We can teach children how to interrupt these behaviors. Praesidium has reviewed hundreds of cases where, by their own actions, children were able to protect themselves. Called to Protect for Young Children is designed to teach children the skills they need to recognize boundary violations that precede abuse, to remove themselves from uncomfortable situations, and to tell a trusted adult when someone has crossed a boundary with them.

Of course, adults cannot hold children solely responsible for their own safety, but we can train them to play an active role in keeping themselves, their friends, and their activities safe.

Development of the Program

As with all of our educational programs, Praesidium conducted extensive research to identify the most important skills children can learn to protect themselves from abuse. Praesidium then reviewed research on the efficacy of child safety programs and on what children are capable of learning at different ages. Because the concept of healthy boundaries can be complex for children, Praesidium worked with educational and child development experts to create the most effective tools to teach age-appropriate boundary skills at each grade level. Additionally, Praesidium asked catechetical experts to review the program to ensure it aligns with Catholic teachings.



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Lesson Plans for Grades K-5

Call To Protect for Young Children provides teachers and/or catechists that work with school age children with brief lesson plans that include hands-on activities for each grade level. The lessons are designed to teach children appropriate boundaries and how to protect their boundaries. The lessons are sequenced such that the information from one grade prepares students for subsequent lessons. Yet the lessons are also independent enough to allow children to enter the program at any time.



Called to Protect for Young Children teaches age-specific skill development goals to each grade level:

- Kindergarten – Rules about the Body
- Grade 1 – Rules for Interacting with Others (includes information on bullying)
- Grade 2 – Listening to Your Intuition
- Grade 3 – Secrets: Those You Keep and Those You Share
- Grade 4 – Healthy Friendships (includes information on peer to peer abuse)
- Grade 5 – Healthy Privacy (includes information on Internet safety)

Previewing the Lesson Plans

Brief descriptions of the lessons for your child's grade level are available. Please take the time to view these materials so that you can be acquainted with the skills and principles your child will learn. Reviewing this material may make it easier for you to talk to your child about safe boundaries and the right to defend them. Further, it may prompt open discussions with your child that will be informative and helpful to both of you.

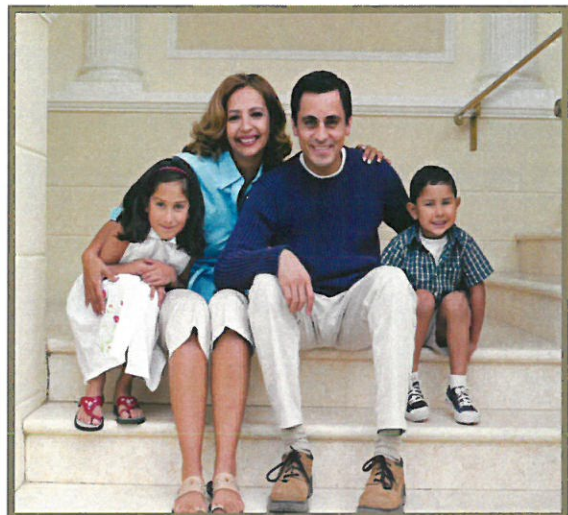
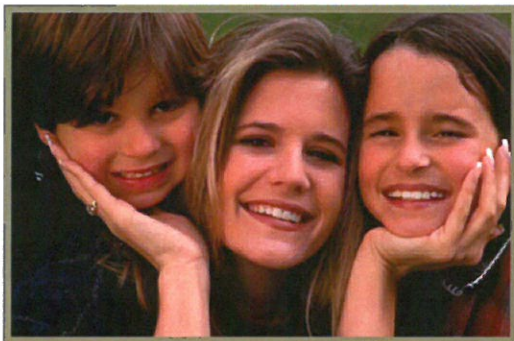


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Conclusion

Thank you for allowing your child to participate in the Called to Protect for Young Children program. Your diocese has chosen this program in an ongoing effort to keep children safe.

Learning these lessons along with your children allows you to partner with them in preventing abuse. Parents should always be the first protectors and best educators of their children. Called to Protect for Young Children will supplement the teaching you do at home and help you in your efforts to guide and protect those most precious to you.



Thank you for answering the call to protect God's children!



