

Newsletter

THIS ISSUE

- What Parents, Caregivers and all Adults Should Know to Keep Children Safe
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Dear Friends,

Parents, caregivers, teachers, volunteers and virtually all adults in the community play a crucial role in the lives of our children and youth. Therefore, it is the collective responsibility of each and every one of us, as a community and as individuals, to promote and practice safe environments for children and youth to live, learn and play.

As adults, we cannot expect children to stop abuse. This is unfair to them; prevention is not their job. It is the job of parents, adults, and society to do all that we can to make ourselves aware and create safe environments for our children and youth.

While it is unreasonable to expect children to prevent or stop abuse, it is also unfair to fail to provide them the knowledge, skills, and environment to help them avoid and prevent unsafe situations. It is our responsibility to keep children and youth safe and secure.

God Bless,

Patti Lochrer
Safe Environment Coordinator
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

**"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."
- Helen Keller**

What Parents, Caregivers and All Adults Should Know to Keep Children Safe:

- Be vigilant of situations and behaviors that seem strange and present risk.
- Screen and check child protection policies at organizations and activities that the child attends.
- Supervise the child. Know where s/he is.
- Accompany the child to public areas (washrooms, stores, etc.) and to activities.
- Communicate to the child that s/he can talk to you about anything. Pay close attention to changes in behavior –they can be a sign of distress.
- Rehearse “What if” scenarios to help the child anticipate responses to dangerous situations that s/he may encounter.
- Teach assertiveness skills - how to send an “I mean business” message.
- Label body parts using correct terms. Explain that s/he should not let anybody touch his/her private parts.
- Model appropriate boundaries between adults and children.
- Healthy adults are not interested in companionship from children. Children are friends with other children and adults are friends with other adults.

A Child's Ten Commandments to Parents

by Dr. Kevin Leman

1. My hands are small; please don't expect perfection whenever I make a bed, draw a picture, or throw a ball. My legs are short; please slow down so that I can keep up with you.
2. My eyes have not seen the world as your have; please let me explore safely: don't restrict me unnecessarily.
3. Housework will always be there. I'm only little for a short time—please take time to explain things to me about this wonderful world, and do so willingly.
4. My feelings are tender; please be sensitive to my needs; don't nag me all day long. (You wouldn't want to be nagged for your inquisitiveness.) Treat me as you would want to be treated.
5. I am a special gift from God; please treasure me as God intended you to do, holding me accountable for my actions, giving me guidelines to live by, and disciplining me in a loving manner.
6. I need your encouragement, but not your praise, to grow. Please go easy on the criticism; remember, you can criticize the things I do without criticizing me.
7. Please give me the freedom to make decisions concerning myself. Permit me to fail, so that I can learn from my mistakes. Then someday I'll be prepared to make the kind of decisions life requires of me.
8. Please don't do things over for me. Somehow that makes me feel that my efforts didn't quite measure up to your expectations. I know it's hard, but please don't try to compare me with my brother or sister.
9. Please don't be afraid to leave for a weekend together. Kids need vacations from their parents, just as parents need vacations from kids. Besides, it's a great way to show us kids that your marriage is very special.
10. Please take me to Sunday school and church regularly, setting a good example for me to follow. I enjoy learning more about God.



Prayer for Parents and Caregivers of Children

Most loving Father, the example of parenthood, teach us what to give and what to withhold. Show us when to reprove and when to praise.

Make us gentle and considerate, yet firm and watchful.

Keep us from weak indulgence, or from great severity.

Give us the courage to be disliked sometimes by our children, when we must do necessary things which are displeasing to their eyes.

Give us the imagination to enter into their world in order to understand and guide them.

Give us all the virtues we need to lead them by word and example in the path of righteousness. Amen

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