



## Training Program for Children in Preschool to Grade Eight

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The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend created a safe environment educational program for all children enrolled in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs. The diocese established this important program to fulfill one of the mandates of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. Article 12 of the *Charter* reads, "Dioceses ...are to maintain "safe environment" programs...to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, volunteers and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people." In our diocese, children receive this educational program every year. Repetition is a good thing. It helps the children remember what is safe and what is not. The presenter also identifies herself/himself as a safe, trusted person with whom the children can share their needs whenever necessary.

### Getting Ready to Teach

Forms, teaching materials, and resources are available on the safe environment website. Many are also available in Spanish. [www.diocesefwsb.org/youth-protection/](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/youth-protection/)

#### 1. Inform Parents prior to teaching

Permission forms that are sent to parents asking parental permission for their children to attend the safe environment training are not required or recommended by the diocese. This educational material is "important personal safety information that every child should have." This is not sex education. The parish/school must give parents notice that the safe environment training will take place with sufficient time for them to find out more about it if desired. Sufficient time would be at least one week but may be longer. Also, the parish/school should let the parents know that the training material is available for their review. The parish/school may give this information to parents in the handbook provided to parents at the beginning of the year or in a regular newsletter or a special note sent home. A sample **parent notification memo** is available from the diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator (SEC).

#### 2. Parents may refuse to have their child participate

**Opt outs** are those children who do not attend the training because their parents do not want them to do so. The parents must sign a **PARENT REFUSAL FORM** each year. The school/parish is to keep the forms on file and to provide copies of the teaching material to the parents and request that they instruct their child(ren) at home. The diocese does not recommend sending this form to every parent with the information. Confusion will be the outcome. Parents will mistake it for a permission slip and



opt out their children when they did not intend to do so. If parents indicate that they refuse to let their child(ren) participate, the principal, DRE, or other qualified staff member should speak with them to answer their concerns and ensure they understand the importance of the training. Some parents are confused about the training content, and a brief conversation will resolve their questions or fear.

### 3. Absent Students

Absent students should attend a make-up session or take the educational material home with them. A note should accompany the child asking the parents to review the material with their child. The parish/school may ask the parent to return a signed form stating that they did review the material with their child(ren). If the parents return the form to the parish/school that they completed the training at home, the child may be included in the number of "trained students" on FORM 3 for the USCCB Audit.

### Training Resources

Parishes or schools may use one of two training programs with their students to meet the diocesan requirement. Each of these options has been approved by the bishop as required by the USCCB.

- The diocesan created program → *Good Boundaries Script* for Preschool-grade 5; Lessons for grades 6-8
- The Loyola Press series: *Growing with God* grades K-8

#### 1. Children in Preschool – Grade 5

**Diocesan created program:** The *Good Boundaries Script*, commonly known as the *Script*, is one of the required training resources for children in preschool to grade 5. There are two different *Scripts*, one for preschool - grade 3 and a second for grades 4 - 5. Each *Script* is written in two formats – a written text and an outline. Both formats contain the same information. The instructor should use whichever format she/he prefers.

Another resource is available for children in preschool, kindergarten, and grade 1. The presenter may read the storybook, *The Swimsuit Lesson* (2005 – Jon Holsten) with the children. After reading the story, there is a prepared lesson plan to summarize the important points. The lesson plan is available on the youth protection website. This option may be taught instead of the *Good Boundaries Script* for these grades only. If a parish/school does not have a copy of the storybook, there is a recorded video version read by the Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration. The recorded version is in English [click here](#) or Spanish [click here](#).

Two more resources are also at the website address: [www.diocesefwsb.org/youth-protection/](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/youth-protection/). They are coloring pages that reinforce one important aspect in the educational material. The first coloring page, *Children in Swimsuits*, is meant for younger children, for example, preschool – grade 1.



The second coloring page, *Children's Faces*, is for older children, grade 2 or above. These are resources to use in addition to the *Good Boundaries Script* or *The Swimsuit Lesson* storybook.

Refer to page 5 of this document for a summary of the training requirements for the diocesan created program.

**Growing with God program:** A second training resource for students in grades K-8 is the *Growing with God* series published by Loyola Press. All training materials should be obtained by contacting Loyola Press. Refer to the chart at the end of this document for the required lessons that must be taught in this series to each grade level to fulfill the diocesan training requirement.

Refer to page 6 of this document for a summary of the training requirements for the *Growing with God* program.

## 2. Young People in Grades 6, 7 & 8

**Diocesan created program:** The diocese has lesson plans for use in presenting the educational material to young people in grades 6, 7 and 8. They are titled as follows:

Grade 6 – Discovering God's Purpose for Relationships

Grade 7 – Boundaries for Good Relationships in God's Plan (session 1)  
Rules for Good Boundaries (session 2)

Grade 8 – How People Violate Boundaries (session 1)  
Grooming & Tactics (session 2)  
Friendships for Life (session 3)

All lesson plans are available on the youth protection website.

**Growing with God program:** A second training resource for students in grades K-8 is the *Growing with God* series published by Loyola Press. All training materials should be obtained by contacting Loyola Press. Refer to the chart at the end of this document for the required lessons that must be taught in this series to each grade level to fulfill the diocesan training requirement.

### Who Does the Teaching?

The school/parish can choose whomever it feels is the best instructor(s) for the educational sessions. Some obvious choices are: the classroom teacher, catechist, school counselor, DRE, or principal. Others could be a volunteer with a counseling, social work or similar background. A simple "How to Teach Script" outline is available at the youth protection website for first time presenters. Another resource for those teaching students in the older grades is, *Preparing to Teach Young People*.



## Assessing Their Learning

**Diocesan created program:** Children in grade 3 and grade 6 are required to complete an **assessment** (True/False quiz) as part of their instruction each year. The assessments are available on the youth protection website. The assessment for grade 3 tests the students recall of the material learned in the *Good Boundaries Script* presentation. The students should take the quiz after the presentation. The assessment for students in grade 6 will test their long term recall of information presented in the previous years. It does not correspond to the grade 6 lesson plan. As such, the assessment can be given at any time, even before the grade 6 material is presented.

For each grade please report:

1. Number of students who took the quiz
2. Average score of all students who took the quiz (either in percent or number correct).
3. Range of scores—lowest score to highest score (either in percent or number correct)

For grade 3, the highest score is 6. Both parts of the false question should be correct for them to earn the point. For grade 6, the highest score is 10. Again, both parts of the false question should be correct for them to earn the point.

**Growing with God program:** The diocese recommends use of the end-of-lesson quizzes that are a part of the series. The children's scores are not reported on Form 3 at this time.

## Recording All Teaching

The principal or DRE will complete **SAFE ENVIRONMENT FORM 3** after the teaching has taken place. There are two forms available on the youth protection website one for each program that is chosen as the resource. Use the form to match your selected training content. Send the form to the Safe Environment Coordinator for the diocese.

The parish/school will complete all safe environment training for children in grades Preschool to 8 by December 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

The school/parish should keep all opt out forms and copies of FORM 3 on file.



## Summary of Requirements for Children's Program

### Diocesan created program (option 1)

GRADE	MATERIAL TO TEACH	ASSESSMENT	RESOURCES
Preschool Kindergarten Grade 1	<b><i>Good Boundaries Script</i></b> (preschool – grade 3 version)  --- OR --- <b><i>The Swimsuit Lesson storybook and lesson plan</i></b>	Optional	<b><i>How to Teach Script</i></b>  Handout: <b><i>Children in Swimsuits</i></b>
Grade 2	<b><i>Good Boundaries Script</i></b> (Preschool – grade 3 version)	Optional	<b><i>How to Teach Script</i></b>  Handout: <b><i>Children in Swimsuits</i></b> or <b><i>Children's Faces</i></b>
Grade 3	<b><i>Good Boundaries Script</i></b> (Preschool – grade 3 version)	REQUIRED	<b><i>How to Teach Script</i></b>  Handout: <b><i>Children's Faces</i></b>
Grade 4	<b><i>Good Boundaries Script</i></b> (Grade 4-5 version)	Optional	<b><i>How to Teach Script</i></b>  Handout: <b><i>Children's Faces</i></b>
Grade 5	<b><i>Good Boundaries Script</i></b> (Grade 4-5 version)	Optional	<b><i>How to Teach Script</i></b>  Handout: <b><i>Children's Faces</i></b>
Grade 6	<b><i>Discovering God's Purpose for Relationships</i></b>	REQUIRED	<b><i>Preparing to Teach Young People</i></b>  <b><i>Golden Rule Activity</i></b>
Grade 7	<b><i>Boundaries for Good Relationships in God's Plan</i></b> (session 1) <b><i>Rules for Good Boundaries</i></b> (session 2)	None	<b><i>Preparing to Teach Young People</i></b>
Grade 8	<b><i>How People Violate Boundaries</i></b> (session 1) <b><i>Grooming &amp; Tactics</i></b> (session 2) <b><i>Friendships for Life</i></b> (session 3)	None	<b><i>Preparing to Teach Young People</i></b>



## Summary of Requirements for Children's Program

### Growing with God (option 2)

<i>GROWING WITH GOD</i> LESSONS (Loyola Press Safe Environment/Family Life curriculum)						
	<b>Lesson 1: God Creates Us Building Confidence</b>	<b>Lesson 2: Boundaries Abuse Prevention</b>	<b>Lesson 3: Friendship and Bullying Healthy Relationships</b>	<b>Lesson 4: Safety Awareness Abduction Prevention</b>	<b>Lesson 5: Digital Discipleship Safe and Healthy Habits in Online Environments</b>	<b>Lesson 6: My Sacred Self Catholic Family Living</b>
<b>Grade K</b>	SEP Recommended	SEP Required		SEP Required		FL approved for use
<b>Grade 1</b>	SEP Recommended	SEP Required		SEP Required	SEP Recommended	FL approved for use
<b>Grade 2</b>	SEP Recommended	SEP Required	SEP Recommended	SEP Required	SEP Recommended	FL approved for use
<b>Grade 3</b>	SEP Recommended	SEP Required	SEP Recommended	SEP Required	SEP Recommended	FL approved for use
<b>Grade 4</b>		SEP Required		SEP Required	SEP Recommended	FL approved for use
<b>Grade 5</b>	SEP Recommended	SEP Required	SEP Recommended	SEP Required	SEP Recommended	FL approved for at home instruction
<b>Grade 6</b>	SEP Recommended	SEP Required	SEP Recommended	SEP Required	SEP Recommended	FL approved for at home instruction
<b>Grade 7</b>	SEP Recommended	SEP Required	SEP Recommended	SEP Required	SEP Required	FL approved for use
<b>Grade 8</b>	SEP Recommended	SEP Required	SEP Recommended	SEP Required	SEP Required	FL approved for use

SEP → Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Safe Environment Program

FL → Office of Family Life

Other program notes:

1. Parent notification, opt out, and other elements follow diocesan policy on training children.
2. All required lessons taught by December 15 of every academic year.
3. Parish contacts Loyola Press for all resources needed for teaching the program.