

Lesson 2 for Grades 3, 4, and 5: Safe Friends, Safe Adults, and Safe Touches

Getting started with Lesson 2:

Principle: Children must respect their own health and safety and the health and safety of others.

Catechism: *Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of them, taking into account the needs of others and the common good. — #2288*¹

Goal: To assist parents, guardians, and other caring adults in teaching children how to prevent or reduce the chance of sexual abuse.

Objectives: Upon completion of this lesson, children should be better able to:

- Name their safe friends and safe adults.
- Identify special safe adults
- Respond in an appropriate manner to unsafe situations

Healthy questioning at this age:

Children at this age are beginning to ask about and understand their own physical growth. They want to discuss some of the virtues essential to friendship such as loyalty, communication, and responsibility. They are interested in the proper terminology related to body parts and wish to have trusted adults in their lives to discuss basic physiological processes with in a non-threatening way. Since children are influenced by what they see and hear in the media, it is important that caregivers talk with their children about the values and attitudes that are portrayed.

¹ Libreria Editrice Vaticana (1997) *Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd Ed.)* Washington D.C. United States Catholic Conference.

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Activity #1: Play the (optional) introductory video to begin the lesson:

Note to Teacher: The introductory video for grades K through 5 is designed to open a simple discussion with children about touching safety and personal boundaries. The video is approximately six (6) minutes long and is neither created nor intended as a substitute for the lesson itself. It is merely an introduction designed to “break the ice” among those in this age group and to get everyone talking about the relevant personal boundary and personal safety issues. Importantly, the video will get children focused on the topic matter, which will help the teacher to facilitate an easy transition into the interactive activities within the lesson. These interactive activities are the critical components where children have a real opportunity to learn how to protect themselves.

We recommend that you watch the video in advance at least a couple of times prior to showing it to your students, so you'll be able to more easily anticipate when the video will end. The video really needs no introduction. Just put it into the machine, and hit “play.” If you're using a DVD version of the video, you'll select the English or Spanish version and the appropriate age group from a menu screen. If you're using a VHS version of the video, you'll need to “cue” the tape to the correct version prior to your class time.

Activity #2: Review and discuss the vocabulary words:

- **Safe friend/safe adult/safe touch**—won't hurt the child without a good reason and won't confuse or scare the child intentionally. They are sure to respect the child's wishes and the wishes and the rules of the child's parents, guardians, and caretakers when it comes to personal safety—including touching safety.
- **Unsafe friend/unsafe adult/unsafe touch**—unsafe friends, unsafe adults, and unsafe touches put a child at risk for emotional, spiritual, and physical harm. These are people who place a child in danger for their own purposes—without concern for the welfare of the child.
- **Special safe adult**—special safe adults—such as a child's mother, father, doctor, or nurse—are those very few special adults who can see or touch a child's private body parts, but only to help keep the child clean and healthy, and only when the child is sick or needs help.

Activity #3: Create a Safe Touch poster

Supplies: Safe scissors
Poster board
Glue
Old magazines
Felt tipped markers

Directions: Ask the children to make up a slogan or title for their Safe Touch poster and write it on the poster. Cut pictures out of the old magazines. The pictures should illustrate safe touches and demonstrate the slogan selected by each child. Children will glue pictures on their poster board to make a Safe Touch poster to take home to show to their parents or guardians.

Activity #4: Identifying safe touches

Directions: Using the formula below, have each child create a five-line poem. After all of the children create their poems, ask each child to share his or her poem with the group. If individuals in the group are uncomfortable sharing with the whole room, ask for volunteers. Another possible way to create the poems is to form the class into groups of 3 to work on their poems together.

- On line 1 – write the words “safe touch.”
- On line 2 – write two words that describe “safe touch.”
- On line 3 – write three action words for “safe touch.”
- On line 4 – write a short sentence about “safe touch.”
- On line 5 – write one word that means the same thing as “safe touch.”

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Repeat the process. This time basing the poem on the words “unsafe touch.”

- On line 1 – write the words “unsafe touch.”
- On line 2 – write two words that describe “unsafe touch.”
- On line 3 – write three action words for “unsafe touch.”
- On line 4 – write a short sentence about “unsafe touch.”
- On line 5 – write one word that means the same thing as “unsafe touch.”

For example: Sample poems might look like the following:

Safe touch, Harmless, secure, Laughing, tagging, running, Shaking hands with a safe adult, Innocent.	Unsafe touch, Dangerous, secret, Angry, nervous, uncomfortable, Touching private body parts, Scary.
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Ask children to share their poems and, as a group, discuss safe and unsafe touches.

Finally: In preparing for this activity, review *Teaching Touching Safety: A Guide for Parents, Guardians, and Other Caring Adults*. Share a definition for “special safe adults”—those who respect a child’s safety and help keep a child clean and healthy may see or touch a child’s private body parts, but only for reasons that the child’s parent or guardian approves in advance and only to help keep the child clean and healthy. Ask children to think of special safe adults who might have permission to see or touch their private body parts. For this age group, the number of people in this category will be quite small. It is important to firmly remind children that only those with a parent’s permission may touch the child’s private body parts, and only for the purpose of helping keep the child clean and healthy.

Suggested prayer to end the lesson:

Dear God,

Even though we are each unique, there are ways that we are alike because you made each of us in your image.
Help me to remember to respect myself just as I want others to respect me.
Help me to live as you have commanded me to live, and guide me in times of confusion and uncertainty.
And, help me to remember, God, that in your loving presence I will always be safe and protected.

Amen