



Diocese of Joliet

Safe Environment for Children Touching Safety Instruction

GRADES 5-8 – VIDEO

“BREAK THE SILENCE: KIDS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE”

REVIEW LESSON (20-30 minutes)

(For students trained the previous year using another resource)

***NOTE TO TEACHER:** This video contains several scenarios involving physical abuse and child neglect as well as the required content on child sexual abuse. This lesson plan is for that required content only, located on the tape between 07:39 and 21:21 on your counter. (There are two scenarios – the sexual abuse of a 10-year-old girl, beginning when she was 7, and the abuse of a boy, now 12, whose abuse began when he was 4.) The other content may be viewed, but this study guide only covers the part on sexual abuse. Because this video may be used with younger or older children, please adapt the language of the general portions of the lesson as needed.*

WELCOME: Last year, if you remember, we helped you learn to keep yourself safe from unwanted and unsafe touches. Do you remember? Today we are going to review this material, using a short video, to help remind you how to stay safe. In today’s short video, you will meet a girl and a boy who will tell you their stories about their abuse and how they have been able to heal and be happy again. Watch and listen, and afterwards we will talk for just a little while about this.

Show the 14 minute section beginning at 07:39

AFTER THE VIDEO:

- How did the story of the girl make you feel?
- How do you think she felt when her mother would not believe her when she finally did tell?
- What about the boy – how did you feel about him?
- Why do you think he was not able to tell someone, but had to wait until his mother caught the abuser in the act?

(Additional in-depth question for older children – Grades 6-8)

- What happened to the girl and the boy to change them from being too confused and afraid to tell anyone about the abuse to being willing and confident when speaking about what happened to them?

(For all ages)

Remember, there are many ways we can be touched that are safe and good – like hugs from friends or family, or the touch of a doctor or nurse to keep us healthy. Then, there are touches that are unsafe or confusing. These include touches on a person’s private body parts.

Do you remember where your private body parts are? Yes, that’s right; they are the parts of the body covered by your bathing suit. When a child or young person is touched on the private body parts by someone older, it is called sexual abuse, and it is wrong. Children who are touched in that way should always tell.

If someone has tried to touch or has touched you or someone you know:

- Don’t keep secrets about touching.
- Always tell about a touching problem even if it has gone on for a long time.
- Keep telling until someone believes you.

Thanks for talking about this. We care about you and want you to be safe.

Optional: end with a spontaneous prayer thanking God for the opportunity to help keep children safe. Invite students to add prayers for their intentions.