



Diocese of Joliet

## Safe Environment for Children Touching Safety Instruction

### Review Lesson Options – All levels

Note: Review Lessons may be used with students who have been instructed using a full diocesan lesson within the previous year. Catechists/teachers should always be prepared to move to a more in-depth discussion, or to re-read a part of the full resource or show part of the video if students seem to need this. The inclusion of prayer is optional for review lessons. If a prayer is desired, please consult one of the full lesson plans for that age level.

### Students Who Used *Talking About Touching* Grades 1-5

**Introduction:** Begin by referring to whatever lesson resource was used last year: if a book or tape was used, ask students to recall the story from the book or tape, such as – Sam’s Story, or the story of the boy whose uncle was touching him. You may want to hold up the book, or the videotape to give them a visual reminder. If an instructional card was used, show them the card and ask if students remember what they learned the year before about touching

Ask students – in age-appropriate language:

- What are some ways people can touch us that are good? (*Hugs, touch that keeps us clean and healthy, etc*)
- When are some touches scary or confusing? (*When an adult does not have the right to touch a child that way, when it feels “bad” or “wrong” etc.*)
- Where are the parts of your body that no one should touch except to keep you clean and healthy? (*The “bathing suit zone”*)
- Who should you tell if someone tries to touch you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable? (*Safe adult – parent, teacher, policeman, etc.*)
- Why does God want you to stay safe? (*God loves us, etc.*)

End by affirming the way students remembered, and encourage them not to forget what to do about this. Remind them that their church/school cares about them.



Diocese of Joliet

## Safe Environment for Children Touching Safety Instruction

### Students Who Have Had Prior Instruction Using “Katie’s Secret” – Grades 6-12

Begin by having students recall the story of “Katie’s Secret”. Ask what they remember. Be prepared to show a clip from the movie if necessary.

*Remind them:* Katie got help because she was finally able to tell someone that her stepfather was abusing her. Certainly, most touch is not bad. There are 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, the parts covered by your bathing suit.

- Do you remember that until you are over 18, these are parts of the body that no one else should touch except to keep you clean and healthy?
- If someone tries to touch your private body parts or asks you to touch theirs, what should you say or do?
- If someone touched or tried to touch you in a way that made you uncomfortable or confused, would you tell someone you trust? Name some of these people.

Remember: if someone has tried to touch or has touched you:

- 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.

Thank you for talking about this today. Let us end our time together in prayer.

### Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse

God of endless love,  
Ever caring, ever strong,  
Always present, always just:  
You gave us your only Son  
To save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace  
Join to your own suffering  
The pain of all who have been hurt

In body, mind and spirit  
By those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize  
Over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.  
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,  
Soothe restless hearts with hope,  
Steady shaken spirits with faith:  
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,  
Enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
Heal your people's wounds  
And transform our brokenness.  
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,  
So that we may act with justice  
And find peace in you.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*©United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2004*