

Talking About Touching[®]

A Personal Safety Curriculum

We can't eliminate risk.

But we can reduce
it by teaching
safety skills.



"In June of 2002, I joined with the brother bishops through the United States in signing the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, 'Promise to Protect, Pledge to Heal.' We confirmed our commitment again in June, 2005. In this Charter, we pledged to do everything we could to ensure that the children and youth in our parish and school communities would be safe. It is with care for our children that I have promulgated 'Talking About Touching,' a program that has received very high praise because it is research-based and because it has outcomes that show its effectiveness in teaching specific skills to children."

Archbishop George Niederauer
San Francisco

Safety skills empower children— wherever they go

How can we protect children at play, at home, at school? The *Talking About Touching* program helps adults build safety awareness in a variety of environments. Together, teachers and parents learn how to provide children with rules, encouragement, and skill practice. The subjects of child sexual abuse and prevention are addressed thoughtfully and carefully within a spectrum of safety and protection concerns. Lessons also include bicycle, traffic, and fire safety. Children take away skills they can adapt through the years in any situation.

Safety and prevention lessons for children, teachers, and families

Children will learn:

- Common safety rules.
- How to ask for help when feeling unsafe or uncomfortable.
- Ways to respond assertively.
- What "safe touch" is.
- Responses to "unsafe touch."

Teachers' and families' topics include:

- Showing children how to stay safe.
- Effective safety rules.
- Practicing safety skills with children.
- Appropriate responses to disclosures of abuse.

The program teaches these concepts through:

- Comprehensive, developmentally appropriate lessons designed to be taught in sequence.
- Guided stories and discussions using 11" x 17" photo-lesson cards.
- Teacher modeling.
- Engaging activities.