

Appropriate Touching of Children in Parish and Catholic School Programs



The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) provides the following list of *appropriate touching* in their policies for protecting young children:

- ✓ *Side hugs (shoulder to shoulder)*
- ✓ *Handshakes*
- ✓ *High-fives and hand slapping*
- ✓ *Touching hands, faces, arms shoulders*
- ✓ *Arm around the shoulders*
- ✓ *Holding hands while walking with young children*
- ✓ *Sitting beside a younger person*
- ✓ *Kneeling or bending down for hugs with a younger minor*
- ✓ *Holding hands during prayer*
- ✓ *Pats on the head if culturally appropriate*

The following are inappropriate touching as outlined by NFCYM:

- ✓ *Lengthy embraces*
- ✓ *Kissing on the mouth*
- ✓ *Holding a child on your lap who is capable of sitting by themselves*
- ✓ *Touching legs, knees, bottoms, chests or genital areas*
- ✓ *Tickling*
- ✓ *Piggy back rides*
- ✓ *Any type of massage*
- ✓ *Wrestling and/or roughhousing*

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Safeguarding God's Children: NFCYM
Policies for Protecting Young People and Protecting Young People: Our Sacred Trust,
www.nfcym.org