How to use the “Empowering God’s Children” Curriculum (Teachers/Catechists/DREs/YMs/Local Safe Environment Coordinators)

Thank you for facilitating the safe environment curriculum to our students in K-12. This meets our requirements with the USCCB Charter. Separate instructions have been prepared for parents.

**Principals/Local Safe Environment Coordinators**
Principals or local safe environment coordinators (SEC) will need to verify that teachers, catechists, DREs and youth ministers have access to the educator’s tab. Check the “general” tab and go to bottom of page “Special User Options” to see if they have the 2nd box checked. If not please contact me to assign it; trujillo@davenportdiocese.org

**Teachers/Catechists/DREs/YMs/Local Safe Environment Coordinators**
Below you will find print screens, arrows and text boxes to help you conduct this training. Your principal or pastor should notify me that you need access to the educator tab. After you sign in to Virtus, if you don’t have this tab, consult with your principal/pastor so they can contact me. We are using Lesson 3 for the 2020-2021 audit/school year. Then click on the educators tab.

1. You need to pull up that each account record to make sure this box needs to be checked in order for that person to have the “educators” tab.
2. You will log into www.virtus.org with your user id and password. Then click “sign in”
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Videos and Lesson Plans

Welcome to the Educator’s page on the VIRTUS Online system. This page is for teachers, religious educators and others involved in warning children about child sexual abuse. This page is your starting point for teaching the Teaching Safety - Empowering God’s Children curriculum to school age children.

Here are some prerequisite steps to help you get started:

Step 1: Read the Overview and Founding Principles of the Teaching Safety - Empowering God’s Children Program (Overview). The Overview refers to several guiding documents provided by the Catholic Church and explains the distinctions you’ll work comfortably within your role as a support to parents in educating children about preventing sexual abuse.

Click here to read or print the Overview.

Step 2: Read Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide (booklet, revised 2016). This booklet is the primary resource to parents through the new Protecting God’s Children program for parents. The booklet is designed to help parents have frank conversations with their children about the dangers of child sexual abuse and to help parents educate their children on warning signs of abuse, and to help parents to better evaluate the safety of those who interact with their children. Catechists and educators support parents in this critical undertaking; it is important for you to understand the types of conversations are (or at least should be) having with their children, and the types of structures that you can help parents create in children.

Click here to read or print Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide.

Follow the steps to print and distribute materials as needed. If you need a DVD/USB of the video, your local SEC can order this for you. You can decide if you want to order the parent guide or print them off.
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Step 1:
Read this overview of the program.

Step 2:
This is the Teaching Boundaries and Safety Guide for Adults, Parents, and Guardians. These can be printed and sent home or you can order them at .85 cents each. An order form is available at the end of the instructions. *This guide is not to be given to the students.

Step 3:
Opt Out Form – This fillable pdf form can be sent to parents to complete online or printed and completed by pen and returned to the local SEC for the permanent file. This form is at the end of these instructions and online.

How do I get the “Power to Protect 2.0” (Icebreaker) Videos?
There are 3 videos (ice breaker and age appropriate) on left side of your screen in the green menu called “Power to Protect 2.0”: Elementary School, Middle School and High School. Click on the grade level to view the video.
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How do I get Lesson plans?
Click on the “continue” link and this will take you to the Lesson Plans. The link is after Step 3.

Use the down arrow to select the grade level you are teaching to get the proper lessons and activities. Then click “Continue.” Lessons and activities can be printed off and used as needed.

Since I selected “Grades K through 2” this is what you would see. *“Teaching Safety” is in the process of being removed.
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Make sure you select Lesson 3 Boundaries: You Have Rights!
Then Continue.

Lesson 3 – Boundaries: You Have Rights! For Grades K through 2

Continue
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Lesson 3 (1 hr.) is the curriculum we will use for Year 3, 2020-2021
There are 6 activities you can choose from. You only have to do 1, but if you wish to do more that is fine also.

We do have other resources that can be used in addition to the Lesson Plans.
Ex: Healthy Relationships for Teens, Supplemental Activities, NetSmarz, and Kidsmartz.

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Record the Training

After you have completed the 1-hour training session you will need to record the training. We will still need to offer the Opt-Out Form.

Catholic Schools
Teachers will be able to record training when the session is completed. I have created a sheet that allows the data to be written down if needed and then recorded in VIRTUS. You can also send the material home and have the parent fill out the verification form when the lessons are completed and send it back to you. You can count training that way for the year 2020-2021.

Parish Religious Education/Youth Ministry/Prep classes
I have created a sheet that allows the data to be written down and then given to the DRE/YM or SEC to enter into VIRTUS. Your parish will determine who will be entering the data into VIRTUS. Additional resources are also listed on the VIRTUS educators tab.

You can send curriculum home and credit the students if the parent signs and sends back the verification form after the lesson is completed. If you want your “catechists” to have this tab please notify me at trujillo@davenportdiocese.org.

Training will be recorded here once the full session is completed. Discuss who will be doing the data entry at the parish level. All educators have access to this tab.
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*If you make an error when entering the data you will need to contact Virginia to fix the error.