



January 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In an effort to assist in the monumental mission of protecting children, the Office for Child and Youth Protection and the Office of Catechetical Formation is partnering with you to present a safe environment lesson to your child who is attending as a virtual or at home learner. It is our cherished role as adults to fully protect children. In addition, we must also teach children about their safety rights and boundaries, so that they have tools to protect themselves. What follows is information about the program itself and the resources available to you.

Teaching Touching Safety Program Information:

Students attending Archdiocesan Parish Religious Education Programs review the *KidTalk* child abuse prevention lesson each year. In these classes, they learn how to identify situations in which an adult may try to take advantage of them and provides students with information on what to do and where to go for help.

This year since your child is attending virtually and/or at home, we are partnering with you in delivering this content, you can find more information at <https://childyouthprotection.org/index.php/protect-children/trainings/kidtalk-overview> . Additional resources can be found at the Office for Child and Youth Protection website at www.childyouthprotection.org. Following the lesson, we encourage you to continue reinforcing the message at home whenever possible.

- I. **LESSON FORMAT:** Due to the current model of virtual and at home learning for Archdiocesan Religious Education Programs, **we will be providing the lesson plan to you as the parent/guardian to present the information directly to your own child.** You will receive the lesson electronically from your parish along with any additional instructions on sharing this information with the child in your care.
- II. **ACKNOWLEDGMENT/OPT OUT FORM:** After a review of the child abuse prevention lesson, parents/guardians may opt out their child(ren) from the teaching of this lesson. You must fill out the google form (link in email) for your children indicating that you have taught the lesson or would like to have your child(ren) excused from this lesson.
- III. **CONTACT INFORMATION:** *For questions on presenting the lessons, please contact the Office for Child and Youth Protection at 215-587-2466 or via email at OCYP@archphila.org, or go to www.childyouthprotection.org under “protect children/resources for parents” for additional information and resources.*