**SAFE ENVIRONMENT LESSON: Grades K-2 (Lesson #5 & #6)**

We will teach Teaching Safety on Sunday, April 7, 2024. The lessons will be based on “Grooming Behaviors” of potential abusers. Please remember this is not a sex education lesson. If a child begins to ask or discuss issues that are not appropriate for this lesson please remind them their concerns are valid, however, these are questions that they need to discuss with their parents.

**Teachers:** Depending on the discussion you have with the students please do not feel pressured to get everything completed. We would just like a healthy and informative discussion for the students.

**LESSON #5**

**OBJECTIVE LESSON #5:** To give children the ability to begin to identify and define adult behaviors that indicate that the person wants more than friendship in the relationship and to trust their own instincts about what is “okay” and what is “not okay.” The goal for this age group is not to teach them all of the warning signs but to concentrate on two specific areas:

1. An adult who gives gifts without permission and tells the child not to tell .
2. Respecting their own instincts when an adult’s request makes them feel uncomfortable or is confusing.

**VOCABULARY:** (definitions for catechists – discuss with students in age appropriate language)

1. Uncomfortable – Experiencing physical discomfort that leaves one ill at ease or uneasy, sometimes causing anxiety.
2. Confusing – To cause an inability to think clearly, to make unclear or incomprehensible.
3. Secrets – Something that is hidden from others or that is known only to one or a few.
4. Secluded – Kept apart from social contact with other people, hidden from view.

**Classroom Discussion:**

* *It is really fun to get presents, isn’t it? We love birthday parties and Christmas and other times when our parents and member of the family give us special gifts.*
* *Somethings, but not always, gifts come in boxes with wrapping paper and ribbon. What are some examples of gifts that don’t come wrapped?*
  + **Note to teacher:** Let the children answer and talk about gifts that come unwrapped such as a puppy or food or a surprise trip or a trip to the ice cream shop.
* *Most gifts are from our parents and family, but sometimes we get gifts from other people.*
* *When do we get gifts from people other than our parents and families?*
  + **Note to teacher:** Let the children talk about this. Guide the discussion so that they see that there are events and special occasions when they get gifts from people other than parents and family, but for the most part, these are uncommon and in public. **The gifts are given in front of others and with the permission of parents.**
* *What kind of gifts might we get from people other than our parents?*
  + **Note to teacher:** Examples of gifts that children might get from others are birthday gifts at a party, awards at school, party favors, and after school treat at a friend’s house, gifts from grandparents, cousins, etc. Have the children think this through and begin to see that there are many times when gift giving is appropriate – **but none where it should be a secret.**
* *Do people ever give you a gift and tell you that it is a secret?*
* *Do you remember what a secret is?*
  + **Points to make**
    - *Sometimes people ask us to keep a secret that is really a surprise – like a birthday party or a special treat that someone has planned or the family. Maybe Dad bought Mom a special present for their anniversary and you got to see it early.*
    - *Secrets that are really surprises are fun. However, there are other secrets that are just things that you are asked to hide from others like your parents for example.*
  + **Note to teacher:** In this discussion, reinforce the message that there are no secrets when it comes to personal and physical safety – and that includes gifts given without the parents’ permission. When a child knows that he or she doesn’t have to keep secrets – and that no matter what the other adult says, the child will not be in trouble for telling – he or she is more likely to reveal boundary violation.
    - It is wrong for an adult or another child to ask a child to keep a gift a secret from his or her parents.
    - Remember that one of the ways we know that an adult is safe is that they respect the parents’ rules and they respect your wishes.
    - Sometimes “gifts” don’t look like a present. They can come in many forms such as:
      * Giving snacks that parents don’t allow
      * Letting children play with games the parents do not allow
      * Giving kids the “rest” of the money they need to buy something when they don’t have enough money for it.
      * Buying a child treats
      * Giving the child something of the adult’s that the child has expressed an interest in having.
    - The problem is usually not with the “gift” itself. The problem is when someone gives it to a child and then expects the child to keep the who thing a secret

**Exercise:** need face expression sheets (disappointed, excited, happy, puzzled, sad, thoughtful)

*Joey loves chocolate. It is his favorite thing. He just found out that he has been invited to go to a special party where there will be nothing but chocolate to eat. It is a chocolate party! What could be better!*

*How does Joey feel?*

* Have students pick a face. Correct answer is “excited”.

*The best part is that Joey gets to go to the party with his best friend Sam. The only part that Joey doesn’t like so well is that Sam’s dad is taking them to the party. Joey doesn’t always feel like being around Sam’s daddy. Joey would rather his dad went with them to the chocolate party.*

*How does Joey feel about Sam’s dad going instead of his own dad?*

* Have students pick a face. Correct answer is “disappointed”.

*Before leaving for the chocolate party, Joey and his mom sit down to talk. She reminds him of the rule about how many treats he can have from a candy store. Joey’s family has a special way of letting each child decide which treats he or she wants. Each one has a certain amount of money to spend in the store. Joey and his sister can buy anything they want as a treat – as long as there is enough money to pay for it.*

*Joey’s mom gives him some money to spend and reminds him that he can have all the chocolate his money will buy – but when he runs out of money, no more chocolate. Joey is thinking about what he will choose.*

*How does Joey feel now?*

* Have children pick a face. Correct answer is “thoughtful”.

*After a while, Joey has eaten several pieces of chocolate and spent almost all of his money. Then he sees the best thing yet – a chocolate train. Joey loves trains and he never saw a chocolate train before. When Joey asks how much the train costs, he realizes that he does not have enough money to buy the chocolate train.*

*How does Joey feel now?*

* Have the children pick a face. Correct answer is “sad”.

*Sam’s dad notices that Joey is sad and asks him what’s wrong. Joey tells Sam’s dad about the chocolate train and that he does not have enough money left to buy the train – and trains are his favorite thing. Sam’s dad tells Joey that he will give him the money he needs to buy the train. Joes says that taking money from Sam’s dad to buy the train is against the rules. Then Sam’s dad tells Joey that it’s okay – it will be just their secret. Joey really wants the chocolate train, but he knows that his Mom will be upset if he takes money from Sam’s dad to buy more chocolate.*

*How does Joey feel now?*

* Have the children pick a face. Correct answer is “puzzled”.

*What should Joey do?*

* **Note to teacher:**  Give the children an opportunity to work this out by talking through all the issues. Guide the discussion using the points about keeping secrets that hide things from parents and how important it is to follow the rules that Mom and Dad have established.
* **Points to make**
  + Remind them that one of the ways that we know someone is “Safe” is that they are people who always respect your wishes and your parent’s rules.
  + Joey should say “no” to the offer from Sam’s dad and let him know that following Mom and Dad’s rules is the right thing to do.
  + Joey should let Mom and Dad know that he did what was right – even when he did not want to do it. This will let parents know that the message that they are teaching is being received. - and it will let them know that Sam’s dad may not be the best chaperone for Joey’s activities without making a big deal out of the incident.
  + Remind your students that parents are the people who care most about their safety and well-being and that letting the parents know that they did the right thing in a difficult situation are cause for celebration.

**Ending Prayer**

Angel of God,

My guardian dear,

To whom God’s love entrusts me here.

Ever this day be at my side.

To light, to guard,

To rule, to guide.

Amen.

LESSON #6

**OBJECTIVE LESSON #6:** Upon completion of this lesson, children should be better able to:

* Distinguish between a surprise, a secret, and tattling on someone.
* Recognize that those who ask them to keep secrets from parents are not safe adults.
* Know that they can and should tell a trusted adult if anyone asks them to keep a secret or makes them feel uncomfortable.

**VOCABULARY:** (definitions for catechists – discuss with students in age appropriate language)

* Surprise: Something that leaves a person feeling wonder, astonishment, or amazement, as at something unanticipated.
* Tattle: To gossip about another by revealing their plans or activities in a sensational way or spreading rumors about another person.

**Classroom Discussion and Activity:** (need 4 pictures that are included)

Talk with the children about the rules for going with adults or doing what adults say to do.

**The Rules:**

1. *Never go anywhere alone with an adult (other than your parents) without your parent’s permission.*
2. *Adults other than your parents can ask you to do something that everyone else is doing such as chores, and expect you to do it. However, if they ask you to do something else, you do not have to do that without your parent’s permission.*
   1. **Note to teacher:** This is a new key concept for this age group. Many have been told – in one way or another – to do what adults tell them to do. Some have been told that they don’t have to do what anyone tells them except their parents. The idea of this rule is to give children some concept of what is an appropriate request. So, for example, if an adult tells them to help clean up a mess made with toys or food, the child should do that because that is the type of chore that everyone needs to do and in which others are participating. However, if an adult asks the child to do something that is not a usual chore such as going home alone with a teacher after school without parent’s permission or going into areas where children are not allowed such as locked rooms that are not being used for classes, the child can and should refuse to do so.
3. *When you are asked to do something by an adult other than your parents, tell your parents what happened, even if the person tells you not to tell.*

**Picture #1:** A school bus full of kids, teachers, and parents going on a field trip to the zoo.

*Is it safe or unsafe to go on the bus?*

* It is safe because:

1. There are lots of people around.
2. It is out in the open where everyone can see each other.
3. There are children and adults on the bus.
4. The tip is to a public place – the zoo.

*Is it safe to go off on your own once you get to the zoo?*

1. It is important to stay with the group on group outings.
2. Children can get lost when they go off by themselves.

**Picture #2:** A picture of an individual walking off across the park alone with the young girl.

*Is this a safe or an unsafe situation?*

* It is unsafe because:

1. They are walking away from the area where other children are playing.
2. No one else is going with them.
3. They are headed toward an area where there is nothing but trees and bushes.
4. The adult is directing where the child should go.

* **Note to teacher:** Listen carefully to the children’s responses in this discussion. Their comments may give you some insight into the ways that they could be vulnerable to a potential offender. Knowing this can help you know what to emphasize in the discussion. For example, if a child says, “You should not go off with the man unless he is your friend or someone you or your parents know really well.” This is NOT the standard for someone being safe, but it does point to how offenders build relationships during the grooming process and overcome a child’s resistance.

*Remember that the definition of a “safe” friend is a person who:*

1. *Won’t hurt the child without a good reason and won’t confuse or scare the child intentionally. (i.e. medical exams, vaccinations, throat swabs, etc.)*
2. *Respects the child’s wishes and the wishes and rules of the parents, guardians, and caretakers when it comes to matters of personal safety – including touching safety.*

**Picture #3:** A room with a DO NOT ENTER – No Children Allowed in Area” sign on the door.

*Is it safe or unsafe to go into this area?*

* It is unsafe because:

1. The sign is a warning that children are not supposed to be in the area.
2. If a child went through the door and got hurt or lost, people might not find him or her quickly.
3. Sometimes rooms are off limits to protect children so it is important to obey the signs.
4. You don’t know why you are not supposed to be there. It might be a place that has tools or other things that could harm you.

**Picture 4:** A merry-go-round in the park with lots of kids and an adult offering a hand up to the child.

*Is it safe or unsafe?*

* It is safe – if the merry-go-round is stopped. It is not safe if it is still going around and around.

1. Sometimes adults, because they are bigger, can do things that children are too small to do. The adult may be able to step up on a moving merry-go-round, but children are too small and it is too dangerous to try that.
2. When the merry-go-round is stopped, everyone can get on and ride.
3. There are lots of people on the ride – children and adults both – and everyone can have fun if they hold on tight and don’t fall off.
4. Some children are too small to ride alone on a merry-go-round. They are not big enough to hold on to the pole and stay on the horse. If you are too small to hold on to the pole and stay on the horse, always have a trusted adult ride with you and stand beside you while the merry-go-round goes around.

**Ending Prayer**

Angel of God,

My guardian dear,

To whom God’s love entrusts me here.

Ever this day be at my side.

To light, to guard,

To rule, to guide.

Amen.