



# Safe Environment Education

## 2nd Grade

"He Loves, He Hopes, He Waits" -St. Maria Goretti



### Healthy Boundaries

At this age, it would be appropriate to talk with your children about who you feel (as their guardians) are "trusted adults"- there are a lot of people who you might consider friends and family, but it would be important for your children to know who to report something to if there was something they felt uncomfortable with.

**Who are two people you could talk to if you ever felt uncomfortable?**

**When someone does something you don't feel comfortable with, what is something you could say to them?**

### Communication

Second graders are at the stage where they are understanding the difference between what is right and wrong. They often have a difficulty at this age admitting when something goes wrong, or when they make a bad choice. This can make it difficult for them to speak to their parents when they think something wrong is being done. It is good to work on communicating with second graders about choices, and help them understand that you are there for them to help them get through bad choices and experiences.

**What are some ways that you can tell us when you feel like a bad choice has been made?**

**How do you think I would react if you told me something that you did wrong?**

### Technology

They won't be behind. That's right! If your child doesn't have ANY technology until well into high school, they won't be behind! Is that a relief? The idea that kids using smartphones or social media is inevitable is one of big tech's biggest lies. Your child won't have a worse job. They won't get worse grades. Oh, but something will happen. They'll be left out. Left out of confusion. Left out of distortion. Left out of explicit content. Left out of toxic comparisons. Left out of anxiety. Left out of inadequate social skills. Left out of cyberbullying. Yes, there's a chance they might be left out of a lot of things. And you know what? They'll thank you later.

**Do you know the difference between a good website and a bad website? Can you give me some examples of both?**

**Other than mom or dad, who are 2-3 other people you could tell if you ever saw something online that wasn't good?**

### Body Awareness

By this age, children should know the difference between good touch and bad touch. As their guardians, it's important to define what is good touch and bad touch, and who is allowed/not allowed to touch them, especially in their private areas. For example, the parents (or guardians) when the child needs help bathing, or doctors/medical staff with parents/guardians in the room. If anyone touches them that should not be, they should be taught what to do and who to tell.

**Who are the only people who are allowed to touch your private areas, and when is it ok?**

**If anyone touches you and you are uncomfortable, who should you tell?**

### Theology of the Body

*We ought to be moved to choose the good not simply through a cold and gritty decision driven by our intellect or our will, but also by our heart. - Jason Evert Theology of the Body in One Hour*



## Parent Resources



**N**inety percent of abuse victims are abused by someone they know. This may be a peer, a relative, a neighbor, a teacher. Sixty percent are acquaintances, teachers, neighbors or community leaders. Thirty percent are by immediate or extended family members. Only ten percent are by strangers. Many victims are concerned their parents will not believe them, especially if it is someone close to the family or in authority. Talking about these issues with your kids will make it much easier for them to approach you if something is not right.

**W**hat are signs you might see that indicate your child might be being abused?

- Becoming more reserved around others
- Not wanting to be around someone they used to feel comfortable with
- Hiding themselves from you, becoming more secretive
- Having fits or frustration or anger that come out (outside of their normal personality)

**T**here are things you can do if you suspect that your child is being abused. The first is to have a conversation with your child. Make sure they know they can tell you anything without getting in trouble. Ask them if there is anything that has happened that has them concerned. Reassure them that they are loved and will continue to be loved by you.

**W**e are here to help you. Beyond Protect Young Eyes, you can find information at [protect.diokzoo.org/gorettiproject](http://protect.diokzoo.org/gorettiproject). Along with this sheet as a guide to talk with your kids, your parish can give you additional lessons to work with your students.

If you suspect that your child or any other child is being abused contact:  
Michigan Department of Human Services:  
Child and adult protective services intake number:  
855-444-3911

Sources:

Statistics on resource page: [www.d2l.org](http://www.d2l.org)

Technology: Chris McKenna @ Protect Young Eyes

Body Awareness and Boundaries: Amy McNamara, LCSW; AM Counseling Services, PLLC

**T**op reasons for children disclosing their abuse are: access to someone they trust, realizing it is not normal, wanting something to be done, expecting to be believed, and being asked. All of these are easier when parents have open communication with their children about these topics. Children that disclose within a month are less likely to have long-term psychological affects

**R**ed flags can be noticed in many different areas. At school or church you may see adults who are only talking with the children and ignore the parents. You don't might also find adults who are buying lots of gifts for your child. Sometimes they may find ways to be alone with your child. They may also give compliments to your child and ignore others. If you see any of these red flags please bring this to the attention of their supervisor.

**T**echnology can be a difficult part of our world to navigate. Even if we grew up with lots of technology, it is now changing at a very rapid pace. As parents you need to be aware of what is out there and how to address the different concerns and pitfalls of these different technologies. This is why we have partnered with Protect Young Eyes. You can find more information at [www.protectyoungeyes.com](http://www.protectyoungeyes.com)