



Instructions for Teachers/Catechists Safe Environment Program for Children in Grade 5

In compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, each teacher or catechist in the Diocese of San Diego is required to introduce the topic of safe environments to their class.

Teachers and catechists should use **only** the points for emphasis listed below and **should not use** life experiences or personal examples. Parents or guardians, as the primary educators of their children, have been given detailed information to continue the conversation of safe environments at home.

This introduction to the topic of safe environments should take 15 or 20 minutes of class time:

Emphasize the following points using the **NO-GO-TELL Poster**:

- That we are all created in God’s image.
- Our bodies are special and sacred.
- Because our bodies are sacred
 - No one has the right to touch our bodies in a way that makes us feel weird, uncomfortable, scared or worried.
 - No one has a right to touch the private parts of our bodies – the parts covered by a bathing suit – unless it is for health or safety reasons. Your body belongs to you.
 - No one has a right to hurt us or to threaten us or someone we love.
 - No one has a right to ask us to keep a secret about our bodies from our parents or teachers.
- If someone has touched us in a way that makes us feel weird, uncomfortable, scared or worried, we should use the **NO-GO-TELL Rule**.
- Thoroughly review the **NO-GO-TELL Rule**.
- It is important to keep telling adults until someone you know listens and believes you and will take care of the situation.
- God helps by giving us the courage to say “NO,” by giving us strength to tell someone, and by giving us information to protect ourselves.
- Tell your students that their parents or guardians will continue this conversation with them at home.

Note to teacher/catechist: If at any time a young person should report a situation of abuse, diocesan policy for reporting suspected child abuse should be followed:

- Mandated reporters should make a report to Child Protective Services;
- Volunteers who are not mandated reporters shall report the suspected abuse to the DCM, Youth Minister or mandated reporter who will then file a report with Child Protective Services.