

Building Boundaries: Called to Protect for Young Children

Information for Parents

Called to Protect for Young Children has been specifically developed to teach children from pre-school through fifth grade skills how to help keep safe. Child molesters are skilled at “grooming” children, making friends with them, finding ways to be alone with them, and convincing them that the molester really cares for them.

We can teach children how to interrupt these behaviors. Praesidium has reviewed hundreds of cases where, by their own actions, children were able to protect themselves. Called to Protect for Young Children is designed to teach children the skills they need to recognize boundary violations that precede abuse, to remove themselves from uncomfortable situations, and to tell a trusted adult when someone has crossed a boundary with them.

Of course, adults cannot hold children solely responsible for their own safety, but we can train them to play an active role in keeping themselves, their friends, and their activities safe.

Development of the Program

As with all of our educational programs, Praesidium conducted extensive research to identify the most important skills children can learn to protect themselves from abuse. Praesidium then reviewed research on the efficacy of child safety programs and on what children are capable of learning at different ages. Because the concept of healthy boundaries can be complex for children, Praesidium worked with educational and child development experts to create the most effective tools to teach age-appropriate boundary skills at each grade level. Additionally, Praesidium asked catechetical experts to review the program to ensure it aligns with Catholic teachings.

