

**SANTA MARIA CHURCH
40 Santa Maria Way, Orinda, CA**

**SAFE
ENVIRONMENT
FOR CHILDREN
PROJECT**

This packet contains:

- A letter of introduction to parents of students in Grammar School Faith Formation;
- A letter of introduction to parents of students in Youth Ministry & Confirmations Programs;
- A parent's OP OUT FORM that must be signed and returned

Santa Maria Church

40 Santa Maria Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Dear Friends,

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops authored a document entitled, *“The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”* The *Charter* provides guidance to dioceses in the establishment of safe environments for children in parishes and schools. In September of 2004, the Diocese of Oakland prepared and implemented its *Safe Environment for Children Project* for use in all of its parishes and schools in response to the *Charter’s* mandate.

Increasingly, parents are concerned about their children’s safety. In particular, sexual abuse is a specific concern. The statistics are staggering. One out of every three girls and one out of every seven boys will be molested before the age of eighteen, frequently by a member of their own immediate or extended family or by someone they know well. Each year over 100,000 young people are sexually assaulted in our country.

In the Diocese of Oakland, our *Safe Environment for Children Project*, which has been mandated by Bishop Vigneron, includes four components. One of these components is the implementation of an educational curriculum for use in all Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs. The objective of the educational component is to help children recognize the behaviors of others that may jeopardize their safety and to help them to know what to do in the event that they find themselves at risk.

The curriculum, which will be presented in our faith formation programs the week of March 1st, is available for your review in the parish office or on our website, www.santamariaparish.info. The presentations will occur during regular class time for both Faith Formation and Confirmation participants during this week only. The curriculum is age appropriate. I have personally led a catechist-aide *in-service seminar* to assist them in learning the content with suggested preparation and implementation approaches for their presentations.

The Diocese, also, has provided an “OPT-OUT” process for parent/guardians who choose not to have their children participate in the Diocesan *Safe Environment Project*. You can obtain an OPT-OUT form from the parish office or on our web-site. If you choose this option, please complete the OPT-OUT form and return it to your child’s catechist-teacher prior to Safe Environment Week.

Thank you for your support and participation in this important project. Should you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call my office – 254-2426, x 305.

Jeff Sloan

Coordinator,
Santa Maria Parish
Safe Environment Project

Church of Santa Maria
Youth Ministry and Confirmation
Safe Environment Training Instructions

February 16, 2009

All High School and Junior High aged youth are required to participate in the Shield the Vulnerable Online Teen Safety Training. This online course will challenge and engage teenagers to help them learn, build, and retain valuable life skills to stay safe.

Each child participating in our Youth Ministry program is asked to register and log into the Safe Environment Online Teen Safety Training during the week of **February 22th**. To take the course:

1. Go to www.shieldthevulnerable.org
2. Click on the tab appropriate for your age group. High School click "TEENS" and Jr. High click "KIDS"
3. Complete the simple registration and open the course to begin.
4. You may stop and return the course anytime through out the week to finish.
5. When you complete the course, please print out the certificate of completion and turn it in to the parish office or to Tony Millette, Carlo Fiatarone, Jeff Sloan.

We will be discussing the course during our sessions on the week of March 1st.

Parents are encouraged to participate in the course with their student and discuss any issues or questions that may come up with them.

The Diocese of Oakland has also implemented an "OPT-OUT" process for parents/guardians who choose not to have their children participate in the Diocesan Safe Environment Project. An OPT-OUT form is attached or you can obtain an OPT-OUT form from the parish office or on our website by clicking the "Faith Formation" link. If you choose this option, please fill out the OPT-OUT form and, if possible, return it to a Youth Minister prior to Safe Environment Week. You can also obtain the OPT-OUT form at our website: www.santamariaparish.info click on the "faith formation" link.

Please Note: The Diocese of Oakland requires that each student must turn in either a Certificate of Completion or an OPT-OUT form signed by the parent/guardian in order to continue to participate in the Youth Ministry or Confirmation program, so please make sure that either document is submitted.

Thank you for your continued support,

Santa Maria Youth Ministry Team

Diocese of Oakland

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT
PARENT/GUARDIAN “OPT-OUT” FORM**

The Diocese of Oakland has implemented a child abuse awareness, prevention and safety program in all parishes and Catholic schools as mandated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. All parents with children in Catholic School, Religious Education or Youth Ministry are strongly encouraged to participate, along with their children, in this program.

By signing this form I have acknowledged the above and elected NOT to have my child participate in this program. I also acknowledge that I was offered the opportunity to discuss my concerns with the Pastor, Principal or Parish Catechetical Leader and that I have been provided with the Safe Environment materials which are designed to help me provide this education to my child.

(Parent’s/Guardian’s Signature) (Date)

(DRE Signature)

(Date)

(Parish/School Name/City)

(Principal Signature)

(Date)

Parent’s/Guardian’s
Concerns/Issues:

of Children Being Opted-Out _____
Children’s Grade Level _____

Please attach and submit with your Curriculum Verification.

Keep a copy for your records.

Curriculum K-2

Using our Built in Computers

1. Each of us has our own built in computers. Who know what our own computer is called.
 - Our Brain
2. Does any one know what a gigabyte is?
 - a unit of memory in a computer
3. How many gigabytes do you think our brains have when we are 5 years old?
 - Over 5 million gigabytes. That's a lot of brain power!
4. Is there any computer in the world that can compare to our brain?
 - No.
5. Our brains are amazing and powerful tools. Do you think we can use them to help keep us safe?
 - Yes
6. Well that is exactly what we will be doing. We're going to be programming our built-in computers to Think First & Stay Safe. Does everyone have their computers on?
 - Yes
7. Good! Because we are going to be programming our computers to do what?
 - Think First & Stay Safe!

Human Weather Conditions

1. What is your favorite kind of weather?
 - Let students respond
2. What kind of weather is the safest?
 - Warm and sunny with blues skies
3. What kind of people do we like best?
 - Most of us like warm "Sunny" people
4. Is it possible for a nice, sunny day to suddenly become a stormy day?
 - Yes
5. Can a person we thought was nice suddenly become a not-so-nice person?
 - Yes, sometimes people who seem nice can become mean or dangerous. We can call them Bad Weather People.
6. Lightning can strike almost anytime or anywhere. During a lightning storm we stay safe by:
 - let students answer
7. Would we ride our bikes during a tornado?
 - No
8. Would our parents drive in a blizzard?
 - No
9. OK, now lets use our built in computers and think: if we take precautions from dangerous weather, should we also take precautions against bad weather people?
 - Yes

That is what we will be learning: How to Think First & Stay Safe
10. Having said that there is something we all need to remember: Most of the time, is the weather safe or unsafe?
 - Safe
11. Again, like the weather most people safe or unsafe?

- Safe

The Concept of Luring

1. How many of you know how to fish?
 - Let students raise their hands
2. What do we use to catch fish?
 - A line, hook, bait
3. What is another word for bait?
 - A lure (have them repeat the word a few times)
4. What exactly does a lure do?
 - It attracts fish and tricks them into biting the hook.
5. Now remember what we just learned about Bad Weather People, people may seem nice but then can turn mean or dangerous. Well these bad weather people have their own kind of lures - "Child Lures"
 - to fool children into trusting them:
Knowing that should we go with someone if they:
 - Ask us to help look for a lost puppy? NO
 - Offer us money? NO
 - Tell us there is an emergency? NO
 - Know our name? NO
 - Offer to give us a ride home? NO
 - Say we've done something wrong and need to come with them?
6. Do you think we would be better able to protect ourselves if we knew when a child lure was being used?
 - Yes
7. Why do we have fire drills at school?
 - To learn what to do in case there is a fire.
8. Do you feel safer knowing what to do in case there is a fire?
 - Yes
9. Is learning to Think First & Stay Safe from Child Lures Like having a fire drill?

- Yes

The Concept of Law

1. Do we have rules we must follow at home? At School?
 - Yes
2. What happens when we break those rules?
 - We get punished
3. Grown-ups also have rules they must follow. What are those rules called?
 - Laws
4. When a grown up breaks the law, what is that called?
 - A Crime
5. Do they get punished for their crimes?
 - Yes, sometime they even go to jail.
6. Which parts of the body does a bathing suit cover?
 - Your private part...let call the private parts of our body the "BATHING SUIT ZONE"
7. To whom does your body belong?
 - My body belongs to me.
8. Should anyone touch us in the bathing suit zone or ask us to touch their private parts?
 - NO!
9. Why not?
 - It's against the law. It's a crime.
10. Does anyone know what this crime is called?
 - Sexual Abuse, Molestation
11. A person who sexually abuses a child is called a predator or a child molester.
 - Can a family member be a predator? Yes
 - Can a playmate, cousin or classmate sexually abuse someone? Yes, it happens.
12. OK lets switch gears a little: Did someone (brother, sister friend) ever accuse you of doing something wrong and you really hadn't done it, but you got punished anyway? Let students respond...
13. Is it fair to say someone sexually abused you when they did not?
 - No
14. Why must we never make up stories about sexual abuse?
 - It is wrong to accuse someone of a crime they did not commit. It is against the law to falsely accuse someone.

15. Lying about sexual abuse, abduction or other crimes is a very serious matter. When it come to the crime of sexual abuse what is the right thing to do: **Always tell the Truth.**

Practice Senarios

1. OK Now it is time to THINK FIRST & STAY SAFE!
Jacob has a babysitter who tries to touch inside his bathing suit zone.
What should Jacob do?
 - Should Jacob tell his babysitter: No! STOP, That's against the law.
 - Should Jacob tell a trusted grown up?
2. Why should Jacob tell a trusted grown up?
 - It's the job of trusted grown ups to protect and help children
3. Who are some trusted grown up's Jacob could tell?
 - Parent, grandparent, teacher, counselor, principal - any grown up he trusts.
4. Why might it be hard for Jacob to tell someone what happened?
 - Might he be scared or embarrassed?
 - Might the abuser be someone he cares about and doesn't want to get them in trouble?
 - Might Jacob have been threatened not to tell anyone, so he is afraid?
5. What if Jacob tells a trusted grown up that his babysitter touched him in his bathing suit zone, and for some reason they can't or won't help him? What should he do?
 - Jacob should keep telling trusted grown ups until someone helps him.
6. How can Jacob protect other kids by reporting abuse?
 - When police and parent know who child molesters are they are better able to protect kids.
7. If Jacob made up the story would that be against the law?
 - Yes
8. There are times when someone may need to see or touch the private parts of Jacob body for health or cleanliness reasons. Can you think of when those times are?
 - If Jacob hurts his private parts.
 - During a doctors visit
 - If Jacob needed help taking a bath or shower or going to the bathroom.

Curriculum - Grades 3 - 5

Using our Built in Computers

1. Each of us has our own built in computers. Who know what our own computer is called.
 - Our Brain
2. What's a gigabyte is?
 - a unit of memory in a computer
3. How many gigabytes do you think our brains have when we are 5 years old?
 - Over 5 million gigabytes. That's a lot of brain power!
4. Is there any computer in the world that can compare to our brain?
 - No.
5. Our brains are amazing and powerful tools. Do you think we can use them to help keep us safe?
 - Yes
6. Well that is exactly what we will be doing. We're going to be programming our built-in computers to Think First & Stay Safe. Does everyone have their computers on?
 - Yes
7. Good! Because we are going to be programming our computers to do what?
 - Think First & Stay Safe!

Human Weather Conditions

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 - Let students respond

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4. Is it possible for a nice, sunny day to suddenly become a stormy day?
 - Yes

5. Can a person we thought was nice suddenly become a not-so-nice person?
 - Yes, sometimes people who seem nice can become mean or dangerous. We can call them Bad Weather People.

6. Lightning can strike almost anytime or anywhere. During a lightning storm we stay safe by:
 - let students answer

7. Would we ride our bikes during a tornado?
 - No

8. Would our parents drive in a blizzard?
 - No

9. OK, now lets use our built in computers and think: if we take precautions from dangerous weather, should we also take precautions against bad weather people?
 - Yes

That is what we will be learning: How to Think First & Stay Safe
10. Having said that there is something we all need to remember: Most of the time, is the weather safe or unsafe?
 - Safe

11. Again, like the weather most people safe or unsafe?
 - Safe

The Concept of Luring

1. How many of you know how to fish?
 - Let students raise their hands

2. What do we use to catch fish?
 - A line, hook, bait

3. What is another word for bait?
 - A lure (have them repeat the word a few times)

4. What exactly does a lure do?
 - It attracts fish and tricks them into biting the hook.

5. Now remember what we just learned about Bad Weather People, people may seem nice but then can turn mean or dangerous. Well these bad weather people have their own kind of lures - "Child Lures"
 - to fool children into trusting them:
Can you think of some ways Bad Weather People might try to lure us into trusting them or going with them:
 - Telling us that there is an emergency
 - Offer us a ride
 - Promising us or giving us money
 - Asking for help
 - Knowing our name and saying that a parent sent them.

6. Do you think we would be better able to protect ourselves if we knew when a child lure was being used?
 - Yes
Do you think these same lures can be used by Bad Weather People online? - Yes

7. Why do we have fire drills at school?
 - To learn what to do in case there is a fire.

8. Do you feel safer knowing what to do in case there is a fire?
 - Yes

9. How is learning to Think First & Stay Safe from Child Lures Like having a fire drill?
 - Let them answer

The Concept of Law

1. Do we have rules we must follow at home? At School?
 - **Yes**
2. What happens when we break those rules?
 - **We get punished**
3. Grown-ups also have rules they must follow. What are those rules called?
 - **Laws**
4. When a grown up breaks the law, what is that called?
 - **A Crime**
5. Do they get punished for their crimes?
 - **Yes, sometime they even go to jail.**
6. Which parts of the body does a bathing suit cover?
 - **Your private part...let call the private parts of our body the "BATHING SUIT ZONE"**
7. To whom does your body belong?
 - **My body belongs to me.**
8. Should anyone touch us in the bathing suit zone or ask us to touch their private parts?
 - **NO!**
9. Why not?
 - **It's against the law. It's a crime.**
10. Does anyone know what this crime is called?
 - **Sexual Abuse, Molestation**
11. A person who sexually abuses a child is called a predator or a child molester.
 - Can a family member be a predator? **Yes**
 - Can a playmate, cousin or classmate sexually abuse someone? **Yes, it happens.**
 - Is it possible o break the law online? **Yes**
 - What are some examples of breaking laws online?
 - **Sending SPAM or viruses**
 - **Downloading movies or music without paying**
 - **Adults sending X-rated pictures or movies to children**
 - **Adult trying to arrange a meeting with children**
12. OK lets switch gears a little: Did someone (brother, sister friend) ever accuse you of doing something wrong and you really hadn't done it, but you got punished anyway? **Let students respond...**
13. Is it fair to say someone sexually abused you when they did not?

- No
- 14. Why must we never make up stories about sexual abuse?
- It is wrong to accuse someone of a crime they did not commit. It is against the law to falsely accuse someone.
- 15. Lying about sexual abuse, abduction or other crimes is a very serious matter. When it come to the crime of sexual abuse what is the right thing to do: Always tell the Truth.

Show Scenarios #1 AND #2 from Video

Practice Senarios

1. OK Now it is time to THINK FIRST & STAY SAFE!
Charlie is in the locker room getting dressed for gym when an older student when an older student tries to touch in inside his bathng suit zone. What should Charlie do?
 - Say No! STOP, That's against the law.
 - Leave and go to a safe place
 - Tell a trusted grown up?
2. Why should Charlie tell a trusted adult?
 - It's the job of trusted grown ups to protect and help children
3. Who are some trusted grown up's Charlie could tell?
 - Parent, grandparent, teacher, counselor, principal - any grown up he trusts.
4. Why might it be hard for Charlie to tell someone what happened?
 - Might he be scared or embarrassed?
 - Might the abuser be someone he cares about and doesn't want to get them in trouble?
 - Might Jacob have been threatened not to tell anyone, so he is afraid?
5. What if Charlie tells a trusted grown up that his babysitter touched him in his bathing suit zone, and for some reason they can't or won't help him? What should he do?
 - Jacob should keep telling trusted grown ups until someone helps him.
6. How can Charlie protect other kids by reporting abuse?
 - When police and parent know who child molesters are they are better able to protect kids.
7. If Charlie made up the story would that be against the law?
 - Yes

8. There are exceptions when someone may need to see or touch the private parts of Jacob body for health or cleanliness reasons. Can you think of when those times are?

- Injury to his private parts.
- During a doctors visit
- If very young children need help taking a bath or shower or going to the bathroom.