

## **TRAINING - Children**

It is required that children and young people be trained in areas such as inappropriate touching, relationships and personal safety. All school-age children in our diocesan Catholic school religion classes or in church parish religious education classes shall be trained.

Parents must be given an opportunity to “opt out” of their child’s participation when the lessons are taught by completing an Opt Out Form and returning it to the Pastor or DRE. Catholic Schools do not participate in the “opt out” opportunity.

Each year, the safe environment coordinator assigns two (2) lesson plans, which contain age-appropriate materials pertaining to personal safety to help teachers with the instruction of the children. Topics change from year to year. Our Diocese uses VIRTUS’s Teaching Touching Safety lesson plans, which can be downloaded from the teacher’s or the pastor’s VIRTUS account. Our children will not be expected to be completely knowledgeable about child sexual abuse or laws, but they do need to know what is appropriate and when they should seek assistance from a safe adult. This program is not a sex education class.

For more information on the children’s program, please contact our Safe Environment Coordinator, Pam Delrie at 318-445-6424 x 213 or email at [pdelrie@diocesealex.org](mailto:pdelrie@diocesealex.org).