

Bulletin Inserts from the Office for the Protection of Children/Youth Diocese of Erie ~ 2011

Please run this in your 01/30/11 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids #1: Place the computer in a well-trafficked area in the home where the whole family can use it. While this practice can help with younger children, parents need to realize that children today access the Internet in many ways: school, library, coffee shop, work or a friend's house. Devices such as cell phones, smart phones, consoles like X box and Play Station enable them to go online almost anywhere. Be aware of any other computers your child may be using. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out

<http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

Please run this in your 02/20/11 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids #2: Have open conversations with your children about the kinds of websites they are allowed to visit. Clear, simple, easy-to-read house rules for use should be posted on or near the computer monitor. Once you establish guidelines, check to make sure that your users stay within these agreed limits. Encourage them to turn off the monitor and tell you immediately if something online makes them scared, uncomfortable or confused. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out <http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

Please run this in your 03/20/11 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids #3: Chat rooms can be a treacherous place and parents need to talk to their children about the potential dangers. Children 'meet' new friends virtually but in the virtual world you never really know who you are talking to. Sometimes these 'friends' are adults trying to gain the friendship and trust of children and youth. Continual monitoring of children's participation in chat rooms is required to keep children safe! To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out <http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

Please run this in your 4/3/2011 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Child Abuse Prevention Month: April is designated as *Child Abuse Prevention Month*. Child abuse remains a national problem. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services there were 905,000 reported child abuse victims in 2006 alone. Through scripture and Catholic teachings we are called to protect the life and dignity of all human persons, no matter how young or old. Working to prevent child abuse is an important response to what we are called to do as Church. Watch this space in the coming weeks for tips on how to create safe environments for children and youth! To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out

<http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm>

Please run this in your 4/10/10 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Child Abuse Prevention Month: Five Steps to Safer Environments - The Diocese of Erie mandates that all people who work with children and youth in our parishes and schools undergo child abuse prevention training. The training details five steps to prevent child sexual abuse.

1. Know the warning signs!
2. Control access to children by carefully selecting the adults who work with children and youth.
3. Monitor all programs for the safety of children and youth.
4. Be aware of and sensitive to what is going on in the lives of children.

5. Communicate concerns to the appropriate person in authority. (Source: www.virtusonline.org/virtus)
To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out <http://www.erieecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

Please run this in your 4/17/10 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Child Abuse Prevention Month: How Old Does a Child Need to Be in Order to Stay Alone? Don't assume that when your child understands what you're saying, he's ready to walk out the door by himself. Besides the fact that many states have laws against leaving children of certain ages alone (for example, younger than 12), experts say children shouldn't be left by themselves until they're capable of fighting off an abductor or handling a crisis situation. Experts also say children do not have the mental maturity to cross busy streets by themselves until they're about 10 or 12 years old. Finally, parents who are certain their young children would never walk away with a stranger will be shocked to learn that studies show they probably will. Stay alert and vigilant, even if you believe your child is aware of possible dangers from others. (Source: "Know the Rules . . . After-School Safety Tips for Children Who Are Home Alone," www.missingkids.com) To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out <http://www.erieecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

Please run this in your 4/24/10 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Child Abuse Prevention Month: There is no better time than Easter to celebrate the protection of our most valuable gift from God - our children. Parents, guardians, and adults who care for children face constant challenges when trying to help keep children safe in today's fast-paced world. *The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children* (NCMEC) offers easy-to-use safety resources to help address these challenges. NCMEC's web site offers a range of practical information for parents and guardians that will help keep children safe from harm. Visit the NCMEC web site at www.missingkids.com and check out the helpful topics in the left column.

To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out

<http://www.erieecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

Please run this in your 5/15/10 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids #4: Instruct your children to never give out personal information online. This includes their address, telephone number, the name or location of their school, or their parents' names. They also need to be careful of any photos they might post. A simple picture of your daughter in a cheerleading uniform, standing in front of your house, could provide enough information for a stranger to physically locate her. Online predators have ways to innocently ask simple questions over a period of time that gives them enough information to know who children are and where they live.

To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out

<http://www.erieecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

Please run this in your 6/19/11 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids #5: Talk to your children about never, for any reason, agreeing to meet someone face to face that they met online. This could potentially be very dangerous. You simply just don't know who you are talking to online. Over the course of two years, MySpace removed 90,000 known registered sex offenders off its website. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out <http://www.erieecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

Please run this in your 7/17/11 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids #6: Parents should consider having internet accounts in their name with parents having the primary screen name, controlling passwords and using blocking and/or filtering devices. Children should not complete a profile for a service provider and children's screen names should be nondescript so as not to identify that the user is a child. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out <http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

Please run this in your 8/20/11 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids #7: Be sure to talk to your kids about cyber bullying. Four out of ten kids have been bullied online and five out of ten have said mean things about others online. Cyber bullying continues to grow and the ultimate tragic result can be suicide. Most kids who suffer or experience cyberbullying do not tell their parents as they are afraid they will lose their online privileges. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out <http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

Please run this in your 9/17/11 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Diocesan Child Protection Policies: The Diocese of Erie, along with all dioceses of the United States, has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse and to aid in creating safe environments. The diocese is committed to on-going screening and training of paid or volunteer persons who have regular contact with our children and youth under the age of 18. It is also committed to the yearly inservicing and training of our children, youth and parents regarding touching-safety and safe environments. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out <http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

Please run this in your 10/15/11 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Code of Conduct: The Diocese of Erie is committed to protecting the children and youth who are entrusted to its care and to ensuring that those in ministry with our young people are in right relationship with the children/youth receiving services. To share in the ministry of Christ is a great privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility. The *privilege* is the joy of sharing in the mission of Jesus Himself. The *responsibility* is acting in a way that conforms to the attitude and actions of Christ. In this spirit, the diocese has issued a ministerial Code of Conduct, which can be accessed at <http://www.eriecd.org/pdf/codeofconduct.pdf>. The code is included in the diocesan *Policy for the Protection of Children*, which also includes mandates for creating safe environments. To read the policy, go to <http://www.eriecd.org/pdf/policyabuse.pdf> For more information, contact Mrs. Karen Streett, at the diocesan offices at 814-824-1222.

Please run this in your 11/20/11 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids #8: CyberTipline Fights Internet Crimes against Children - The *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children*, the *Federal Bureau of Investigation*, and other government agencies all work together to fight Internet crimes against children. They've established a "CyberTipline," a reporting mechanism for cases of child sexual exploitation including child pornography, online enticement of children for sex acts, child victims of prostitution, and unsolicited obscene material sent to a child. Reports may be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week - online at www.cybertipline.com or by calling (800) 843-5678. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out <http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

None for December

Please run this in your 1/15/12 bulletin

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments

Be Vigilant: It is vitally important that we are constantly vigilant - that we always observe the behaviors of those who interact with children. We must always communicate our concerns to the appropriate parties. Sometimes this means communicating our safety concerns to our children. And sometimes this means communicating our concerns about seemingly inappropriate behavior to those who are in a position to intervene. Parents must also listen carefully to their children and observe both their children's activities and the behavior of older children and adults who interact with them. When children exhibit dramatic behavioral changes, adults must find out what caused the changes. Being aware of what's happening with our children means talking to, listening to, and observing them - at every opportunity. (Source: www.virtusonline.org/virtus) To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out <http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

Include the following announcements at least once a year in the parish bulletin. As you may have noticed, these announcements have been included in this list of bulletin announcement for the months of September, 2011 and October, 2011.

To inform parishioners of **diocesan policies regarding child protection**

The Diocese of Erie, along with all dioceses of the United States, has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse and to aid in creating safe environments. The diocese is committed to on-going screening and training of paid or volunteer persons who have regular contact with our children and youth under the age of 18. It is committed to the yearly inservicing and training of our children, youth and parents regarding touching-safety and safe environment. To see what the Diocese of Erie is doing to keep children and youth safe, check out <http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>

To inform parishioners about the **Code of Conduct**

The Diocese of Erie is committed to protecting the children and youth who are entrusted to its care and to ensuring that those in ministry with our young people are in right relationship with the children/youth receiving services. To share in the ministry of Christ is a great privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility. The *privilege* is the joy of sharing in the mission of Jesus Himself. The *responsibility* is acting in a way that conforms to the attitude and actions of Christ. In this spirit, the diocese has issued a ministerial Code of Conduct, which can be accessed at <http://www.eriecd.org/pdf/codeofconduct.pdf> . The code is included in the diocesan *Policy for the Protection of Children*, which also includes mandates for creating safe environments. To read the policy, go to <http://www.eriecd.org/pdf/policyabuse.pdf> For more information, contact Mrs. Karen Streett, at the diocesan offices at 814-824-1222.