



Child Protection Education for Religious Education Parents

Dioceses have been mandated by the U.S. Bishops' Conference (USCCB) to provide inservicing regarding proper conduct and the procedure for response to child abuse not only for children and youth, but also for their parents. They also state: "*It may be difficult to ensure all parents in a parish are adequately informed about the issue of child abuse. To reach as many parents as possible, attempts should be made to provide various types of instruction. Multiple delivery methods could include formal training sessions led by experienced child-safety professionals, independent reading material, videos, or information posted on the diocesan web-site.*"

All parents must receive some information regarding Child Abuse/Safe Environment **EVERY YEAR**. It is the prerogative of the parish religious education program to choose the material and the means which will best accomplish this requirement for their parents. The parish will be asked for the number of parents inserviced/sent information on the *Annual Parish Report for Child Protection Compliance* each year.

To this end, the diocesan Office for Protection of Children and Youth offers the following suggestions for the mandated dissemination of information to all parents in our parishes.

- Contact the service agencies in your area to provide an evening in-service for parents. Agencies who are conducting the inservicing of the children all have programs for adults. For a listing of county agencies, click on <http://www.eriecd.org/pdf/county.pdf>
- Supply booklets, pamphlets or some reading material regarding the subject of child abuse to each family in your program. For convenience in accomplishing this inservicing mandate, use the **Parent Inservice Material** posted for each catechetical year at the Child Protection web site (<http://www.eriecd.org/protectyouth.htm>) to supply information to parents.
- The brochure from the diocese titled *Frequently Asked Questions about Child Abuse* (<http://www.eriecd.org/pdf/abusebroch.pdf>) can be downloaded and copied (or purchased from the diocese) and distributed to all parents. A copy of this flyer could also be put in each parish bulletin to more widely disseminate the information. Pamphlet racks could be installed in the church or religious education center.
- Information can also be included in a religious education parent newsletter. Further reference materials for both adults and students can be found at: <http://www.eriecd.org/pdf/resources.pdf>
- **Diocesan Media Resource Library** <http://www.eriecd.org/media.htm> has video programs for all age groups regarding Child Abuse and Safe Environment. These may be borrowed for use at no charge to the parish.

Resources for **Parent Information on Child Abuse**

Diocese of Erie Parent Education/Training Packet

<http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm> (Scroll down to the section headed “**Parents**” in red.)

This packet is to be mailed to all parents whose children do not attend parish on-site Child Protection inservice presentations. All or part of the packet may also be used as inservice material for all parents.

Diocese of Erie Parent Inservice Material

<http://www.eriescd.org/protectyouth.htm> (Scroll down to the section headed “**Parents**” in red.)

These packets may be used to send home to parents to comply with the mandate to inservice all parents regarding Safe Environment/Child Protection yearly. This packet is NOT to replace the Parent Training Packet that must be sent to all parents whose children do not participate in the on-site inservice at the parish (see above).

Channing Bete Company

1-800-226-8926

<http://pcaamerica.channing-bete.com>

Basic Facts About Child Abuse

Helping Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

excellent booklets at affordable prices.

Talking About Child Sexual Abuse

You Can Help Prevent Child Abuse

Faith Trust Institute

1-877-860-2255

www.faithtrustinstitute.org (Go to **Store**, choose **Child Abuse Materials**, choose **Child Abuse Awareness Brochures**)

What You Need to Know If a Child Is Being Abused

good introductory pamphlet

Darkness to Light

<http://www.d2l.org/>

This organization has excellent materials for parent education regarding the topic of child sexual abuse. Information is easy to find on this web site and would be a good one to “send” parents to.

Look under **About Child Abuse and Prevention and Programs**

N.B. This list is by no means exhaustive. It is a basic resource list to help you begin the process of educating parents about child sexual abuse.