

Description Overview of the “Called to Protect for Youth” Program

Research shows that child molesters use the same methods time after time, so the more youths know about how molesters operate, the safer they are. That’s where Katie and Szucceed come in. These two young adults host the series with a manner that puts kids at ease. Katie and Szucceed present just what kids need to know in a non-threatening and educationally sound way.

Part One

In Part One, Katie and Szucceed describe the three types of boundaries—physical, emotional and behavioral. They show interviews with child molesters who describe the methods they used to violate kids’ boundaries, and interviews with kids who talk about how their own boundaries were violated.

Part Two

After learning how to recognize their boundaries, kids need to know what to do if someone tries to violate them. In Part Two of Called to Protect™ for Youth, four young actors join Katie and Szucceed to demonstrate a variety of ways kids can respond. Each of the actors portrays a different personality type—shy, funny, spunky, and wholesome—so all kids watching the program learn methods that will work for them!

Part Three

For some kids, sexual abuse has already happened—or maybe it is still happening. And they haven’t told anyone. They’re living with the secret, trying to pretend that it doesn’t bother them. Katie and Szucceed show interviews with kids who have been molested, explaining why it was so difficult for them to tell someone, and present interviews with child molesters describing the methods they used to keep kids from telling. Then, Katie and Szucceed bring back their young friends to demonstrate ways kids can tell their parents or another trusted adult if someone is abusing them or someone they know.

Can I get more information about the prevention of child abuse?

The Diocese of Phoenix provides workshops for parents and other adults as part of its Safe Environments program. The session for parents is titled Called to Protect for Parents. A schedule of workshops (free of charge) is posted on the diocesan website <http://safeenvironmenttraining.org/classes.php>

What should I do if I learn of abuse or potential abuse?

The most important thing you can do if a child discloses abuse is to listen carefully and reassure the child that he or she did the right thing in coming forward. Let the child know that you will do whatever you can to keep him or her safe. If a volunteer, staff person or member of the clergy in a parish or school appears to have violated a minor’s boundaries, contact the supervisor of the program. If you have a reasonable belief that a child has been abused take the following steps: First, contact the police. Second, contact the Office of Child and Youth Protection at 602-354-2396.

What can Parents do to reinforce the messages received in the “Called to Protect for Youth” Educational Session

First, talk to your kids about their physical, emotional, and behavioral boundaries. Find out what they learned in the program.

Physical boundaries are defined by:

- Who can touch you.
- How much they can touch you.
- Where they can touch you.

Emotional boundaries are defined by:

- How close you feel to a person.
- How much time you spend with a person.
- What information you share with a person.

Behavioral boundaries are defined by:

- What you will do
- What you won't do.

Second, pay attention to someone who crosses a child's physical, emotional or behavioral boundaries.

Physical boundary violations mean touching too much or touching in ways most adults would not touch a child. Some examples are:

- Roughhousing or wrestling
- Accidentally touching inappropriately
- Tickling
- Too many hugs or hugs with too much body contact, or unwanted hugs

Emotional boundary violations mean treating the relationship with a child as if it were a romantic or intimate adult relationship. Some examples:

- Spending too much time with a minor
- Contacting the youth too much
- Getting involved in too many of the child's activities
- E-mailing too much
- Acting too possessive

Behavioral boundary violations mean involving a child in activities that his or her parents would not allow the child to do. Some examples are:

- Ridiculing the beliefs of a minor's parents
- Allowing a minor to do things against the wishes of parents
- Allowing a minor to look at pornography
- Asking a minor to keep secrets from his or her parents
- Offering a minor cigarettes, alcohol, or drugs
- Allowing a minor to visit inappropriate Web sites
- Giving a minor gifts without the parents' permission

Third, be aware that fears about being in trouble or disappointing parents can keep kids from telling. Let your child know they can tell you anything and you will always love them.