



CONNECT

*Sharing
Life
Together*



A Resource Provided to You Through the
Protecting God's Children® Program

The **Protecting God's Children** program is designed for adults in our faith community—to raise their awareness about the nature of child sexual abuse, to educate them on how to recognize the warning signs, and to train them about what to do when they suspect a child is being victimized. At Prince of Peace, it is necessary for all members of Connect to understand the fact that this applies to our faith community both on campus as well as any location where faith sharing occurs including, but not limited to a Parishioner's home, a coffee shop where meetings occur, parks, or other public venues.

The first step to protecting children from sexual abuse is educating parishioners and parents about the nature of the problem. Awareness about child sexual abuse—what it is and who commits it—opens the door to some simple steps Parishioners and parents can take to protect children.

Key Reminders

- 1) By virtue of their physical size, adults have power over children—and that increases a child's vulnerability.
** Do NOT insist that children hug or kiss relatives or friends. Let children express affection on their own terms.*
- 2) Learn to recognize and take advantage of teachable moments with children.
- 3) Games are a great way to reinforce the lessons you teach your children about safety issues.
- 4) Teach children to say, "Stop it," to instructions that might encourage them to do things that they really do not want to do
- 5) Know where children spend their time. This includes ANY parish functions including (but not limited to) any Connect meetings that occur ON or OFF campus.

For more information on the Virtus program OR to register online for an upcoming course, visit their website, <http://www.virtus.org>.

If you would like more information on Virtus here at Prince of Peace, please email Marilyn St. Pierre: mstpierre4@gmail.com.

Resource

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