

CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR PARENTS OF PRIMARY GRADE CHILDREN:

Discuss with your child how we are all special to God and created in God's image. God created every part of us and our bodies are unique and private. Because we are so special to God, God never wants anyone to hurt you. No one has the right to hurt you and you do not have the right to hurt anyone else.

Tell your child that one way for them to be safe is to know about different types of touches. Explain that good touches make us feel happy, loved and comfortable inside. Examples may include kisses from a parent, hugs, pats on the head, etc.

Explain that some touches are bad touches and are not okay. They make us feel angry, hurt, upset, worried, or weird. Explain that no one has a right to touch us in our private parts – the parts of our bodies covered by our bathing suits. [With second or third graders discuss that private parts are called "private" because they should not be touched or shown to anyone.] Tell your child that a grown-up should NEVER ask a child to keep these bad touches a secret.

Discuss with your child that no one should touch their private parts except
Doctors – with a nurse or parent present
Parents in special situations (such as bathing, or in case of an injury)
When they wash themselves.
Tell your child that their body belongs to them.

Explain that it is never okay for an adult or older child to touch a child's private parts or ask a child to touch theirs. It is not okay for adults or older children to take pictures of your child or show your child pictures or movies of people without their clothes.

Tell your child that it is not always easy to tell if what someone is doing is wrong. If a child is confused or not sure they should go to a trusted adult. Discuss with your child who would be considered a trusted adult.

Review the **NO-GO-TELL Rule** that your child was taught in class.

NO – If someone touches your child with a bad or confusing touch, it is important to say "NO" and to tell that person "Stop." **YELL** if you are really scared.

GO – Get away as soon and as safely as you can.

TELL – an adult that you trust what happened.

To conclude this conversation:

Reinforce the idea that no matter what happens to a child, God loves them and you love them very much. It is NEVER the child's fault if an adult does something uncomfortable or hurtful to them.

Explain that no matter what happens, there are many trusted adults to whom your child can talk. Emphasize that it is the trusted adult's job to take care of the situation.

Remind your child that there are so many people in their lives who want them to be safe.