

Office of Victim Assistance & Safe Environment

Services to Children

1. The Archdiocese of San Antonio is committed to the prevention of child abuse throughout the entire community.
2. The Archdiocese of San Antonio believes that education is the key to prevention.
3. Prevention education for children will emphasize basic anti-victimization skills in dangerous or abusive situations.
4. The Archdiocese of San Antonio will not teach sex education.
5. All children in Catholic parishes, schools, and organizations will receive prevention education.
6. Education will focus on communication. It will give children the skills necessary to tell their concerns to a trusted adult.
7. In no way do we expect children to protect themselves.
8. The Archdiocese will educate children and adults about personal safety and appropriate boundaries. Adults will also be taught to listen and react.
9. The prevention curriculum will include:
 - a. Communication skills
 - b. Teaching children to say "no" to unwanted situations
 - c. Identifying "tricky people"
 - d. Identifying the difference between safe and unsafe secrets
 - e. What to do if they are harmed
 - f. Internet safety
10. Besides education, OVASE will provide support services and/or referrals to any child who has been sexually abused.