

BEHAVIORAL BOUNDARIES FOR MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

DO

- Do express affection with children when others are present e.g.
 - Side hugs
 - Shoulder to shoulder hugs
 - Handshakes & “high-fives”
 - Kneeling or bending for hugs with minors
 - Touching when in the context of a blessing
- Offer verbal praise for a job well-done.
- Practice openness. Avoid secrecy.
- Have at least one other adult present when working with minors. Conduct private conversations where there is open access and visibility.
- Model virtuous behavior. Nurture appropriate relationships in your own life.
- Support parents in their parenting role.
- Report inappropriate incidents. Help one another to stay within the appropriate boundaries as defined in Diocesan policies.

DO NOT

- Do not engage in physical contact with minors that might be misconstrued, e.g.
 - Kisses on the mouth
 - Holding children on the lap unnecessarily
 - Touching knees or legs of minors
 - Wrestling or tickling minors
 - Giving or receiving of massages
- Do not offer compliments or put-downs that relate to physique or body development.
- Do not single out individual minors for gifts. Give to the group.
- Do not take a minor to an isolated environment, including personal living quarters. This does not include confession.
- Avoid non-virtuous behavior e.g.
 - Any form of pornography
 - Being intoxicated in public
 - Using crude, vulgar or sexually explicit language.
- Do not encourage minors to engage in activities that their parents would not allow.
- Do not ignore suspicious behavior.

July 2009