

MODEL THAT ASKING FOR CONSENT IS AN ONGOING PROCESS.

- ♥ “Do you need a break from tickling, or are tickles still okay with you?”
- ♥ “Do you want to keep talking about this, or do you want to take a break?”

TEACH YOUR CHILD TO ASK FOR CONSENT WITH OTHER CHILDREN.

- ♥ “Do you want to play with the red or the blue car?”
- ♥ “Do you want to hold hands when we walk to lunch?”

Modeling consent with your child communicates that they have the ability to choose and have that choice respected.



Visit SafeSecureKids.org to learn more about talking with the children in your life about consent, feelings, and boundaries.



SafeSecureKids.org is a joint partnership between the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) and d’Vinci Interactive.

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KEEPING KIDS SAFE

Setting and Respecting Boundaries with Children

CONSENT

Consent means giving someone a choice about touch or actions and respecting their answer. With children, we often use the language “asking for permission.”

You can model how to ask for permission and respond appropriately when you do or do not receive permission from another person. Conversations about consent can be related to sharing toys and games, and understanding and respecting the personal space of others.

ASK FOR CONSENT IN EVERYDAY INTERACTIONS WITH YOUR CHILD.

- ♥ “Do you want a hug goodbye? We could also wave or high five.”
- ♥ “What do you want to wear today?”

BOUNDARIES



Boundaries are a person's right to choose what is comfortable for them. What's comfortable for one person, may not be comfortable for another.

Children are receiving messages from all sorts of places, and as an adult, you can help them make sense of these messages.

TEACH YOUR CHILD

- ♥ Your body belongs to you
- ♥ You get to make decisions about your own body
- ♥ No one should touch you without permission
- ♥ Always choose to respect others' boundaries

Talking about consent and boundaries shouldn't be a one time-conversation. There are opportunities every day to discuss and model consent and boundaries. It may feel uncomfortable or overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be!

Ready to start? Before you answer or discuss anything with your child, remember to **BACK up** and follow these 4 steps.

B BE OPEN

Be open to being asked questions and open to providing thoughtful answers. This means being a good, active listener and never responding with judgement or criticism.

A ASK QUESTIONS

Ask your child questions to understand the root of what they're thinking and feeling. Kids don't always have the best tools to communicate exactly what they're feeling or needing. It is up to you to listen and figure out what's going on.

C CIRCLE BACK

Are you facing a conversation you're not sure how to respond to? That's ok! You don't have to have all the answers right away. Let your child know that you will think about it and circle back to them.

K KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

When talking to your child, be sure your response is age appropriate. This includes the language that you use, the type of information you discuss, and the amount of information you provide.

WE CAN BE TRUSTED ADULTS TO KEEP THE CHILDREN IN OUR LIVES SAFE BY BEING:

- ♥ Someone who a child or teen can talk to about anything they might be thinking or feeling
- ♥ Someone who is compassionate, an active listener, non-judgmental, patient
- ♥ Someone who is willing to help

EVERYONE CAN:

- ♥ Be thoughtful about who our kids spend time with
- ♥ Model setting and respecting boundaries with others
- ♥ Let children decide when and how they want to show affection
- ♥ Educate our family, friends, and neighbors about our expectations around boundaries and consent

