



# PERSONAL AND BODY SAFETY FOR YOUR STUDENTS



## Protecting Students And Staff

In *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, Ellen G. White writes: “[Teachers] will discern that they have a most important field in the Lord’s vineyard to cultivate.” Educating children and the adults who work with them about appropriate methods of physical contact helps protect everyone from harm and allegations of misconduct.

### Appropriate Touch: Guidelines For Staff Members

- Always ask for permission to hug, pat on the back, or even high-five a child.
- Only touch at the shoulder level or above.
- Use side hugs.
- Rough physical play, physical discipline, and horseplay are also inappropriate.

### Providing Guidelines For Children

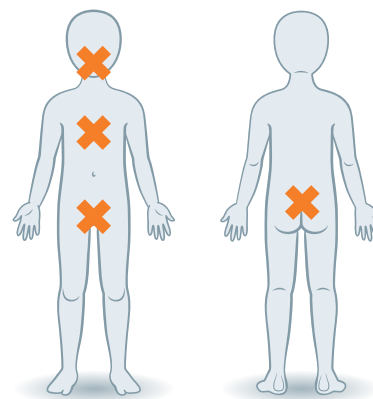
Help your students to understand that their bodies belong only to them. No one is allowed to touch them without permission. And kids should always ask before touching someone else.

## Personal Body Zones

Reinforce the importance of understanding and protecting personal body zones.

These four body zones are always off-limits (except in the event of emergency medical response, such as the administering of CPR/first aid by a medical professional):

- ✗ Mouth
- ✗ Chest
- ✗ Between the legs
- ✗ Buttocks



This material is fact based general information and should not, under any circumstances, be considered specific legal advice regarding a particular matter or subject. Please consult your local attorney or risk manager if you would like to discuss how a local jurisdiction deals with any specific circumstances you may be facing.



## Communicating: **Safe and Unsafe Touch** **Helping Your Students Report Inappropriate Behavior**

### Safe Touch



- is affirming and uplifting
- is respectful of privacy and personal zones
- is aware of boundaries and asks permission
- can be a side hug from a teacher to a child:

### Unsafe Touch...



- Seeks to compromise the boundaries and privacy of personal zones
- Is not respectful of the individual's body autonomy
- Also never ok: Hitting, pushing, or kicking

Children must be encouraged and empowered to report inappropriate behavior toward them. As teachers, help them speak up if something has occurred. Remind them that their personal zones are off-limits to everyone and they must talk to a trusted grown up. Inappropriate behavior to a child is never the child's fault. If abuse is suspected, you as an educator must speak up.



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