



LCA CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS FOR CONGREGATIONS

Children's Talk

This is a script for a children's talk to introduce the 'Speak up' resources to a congregation and children. Using this resource supports Standard 2 and Elements 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3.1, 3.2 and 6.2.

Adjust the language for age level. Choose examples (use all or some) as required. It's great if you can take photos in your church/congregation and add them to the PowerPoint. Remember to seek permission if you use images with identifiable people, and ensure you are not using any copyrighted material without permission.

Speak to your Professional Standards Officer if you need help.

Interact with children and encourage them to provide suggestions/answers.

Introduce yourself if you are a visitor or unknown to the children or congregation. You may wish to indicate that you are going to talk about being safe. **SLIDE 1**

I'm going to show you a photo. It's a very old photo, about 65 years old. **SLIDE 2**

What can you see in the photo? (Baby, basket)

Where is the baby? (In a car)

Why do you think the mother put the baby in a basket in the car? (To keep him safe)

Why did she need to do that? (In a time when there were no seat belts, car seats, capsules, child locks on doors, etc)

Parents/adults want to keep children safe when they travel in cars.

Have a look at this photo. **SLIDE 3**

What's this mum doing? (Applying sunscreen to her child)

I wonder why she's doing that? (To protect the child from sunburn/skin damage)

Parents/adults want to keep children safe in the sun.

What's happening in this photo? (Crossing supervisor) **SLIDE 4**

Adults want to keep you safe when you cross the road.

Your parents, grandparents, teachers and many other adults want to care for you and keep you safe.

We really want you to be safe at church too. **SLIDE 5**

How do the adults keep you safe when you come here?

By making sure your equipment is safe. **SLIDE 6**

If you hurt yourself, adults look after you. **SLIDE 7**

We might put up some special reminder notices. This one is from another Lutheran Church, and it reminds people driving in the car park to go slowly and watch out for children. **SLIDE 8**

You might see some of these things around. **SLIDE 9**

Every time you come to Sunday school (or use the name of your children's program), your teachers are thinking about your lessons and the fun activities you will do, but they also write down a plan to make sure you are as safe as possible. **SLIDE 10**

When you do something that could be a little bit dangerous, such as cooking in the kitchen, we make sure there are plenty of adults there to help you. **SLIDE 11**

It's not just our bodies that we want to keep safe. We want to keep safe on the inside with our feelings. We want you to feel safe. **SLIDE 12**

It's not just the adults who can help us to be safe. Who else can help?

You can help keep each other safe, too. You can be safety helpers. How might you do that?

For example, helping someone if you see them hurt themselves, sharing, showing acts of kindness, using kind words or telling an adult if something's going wrong. **SLIDES 13, 14, 15, 16**

Put your hand up if you can do this/be a safety helper.

Our Lord Jesus says you are very precious to him. This picture reminds us of how Jesus welcomes and blesses children. He loves you and wants to protect you. **SLIDE 17**

You are very precious to the adults at church, too.

In fact, the Lutheran Church has just introduced some special standards – a bit like rules – to help adults keep you safe.

Here they are on a poster. Can you see how many there are? **SLIDE 18**

(If the poster is already displayed, ask the children where they have seen it.)

Even though we're trying very hard to be safe, sometimes things might go a little bit wrong.

Sometimes we might not be safe. Someone might have a little accident and get hurt, or someone might be unkind. Sometimes we feel a bit scared and unsafe. **SLIDE 19**

If that happens, or you're concerned about being safe at church, we want you to tell an adult – someone you trust – who can help you. Who might you speak to? **SLIDE 20**

Solicit children's ideas, but be prepared to add to these. Especially list those relevant to your context (parents, Sunday school teachers, pastor, friends). If your congregation has specially nominated persons such as Child Safety Champions, identify these persons.

Do you think you could do that? Could you find a special adult to talk to?

We're going to put up/we have put up an important poster that reminds you about this. It looks like this.

Ask the children what the big red letters say: 'Speak up.'

Talk about whose photo you might add to the poster. If possible, have a copy complete with photo to show the children. **SLIDE 21**

We've also got an activity you can do at home. It looks like this. **SLIDE 22**

This is your Safe Hand. It has a space for you to write your name in the middle. And on each finger, you can write the name of an adult you feel safe with at church. These are the people who you can tell if you see something that you think is unsafe or something that an adult should know about.

(Mums, dads and teachers, please talk to your children about this and identify some trusted persons within the congregation for your child.)

PRAYER:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me a special church family. Thank you for all the children and adults who come to this congregation. Please help us to look after each other, to care for one another, and keep everyone safe when we are at church. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

Thank you for listening and helping to keep everyone safe at church.