

Circle of Grace® Key Implementation Strategies



Tasks:

- Set a time frame for implementation.
- Send the general letter to parents at least two weeks before the lessons are taught.
- Make the *Circle of Grace* brochure available for parents and others in the community at kiosks and other written communication locations.
- Put *Circle of Grace* information in parish and school communications- bulletins, newsletters, and social media to inform parents and the community what *Circle of Grace* is and what it means to be a 'Trusted Adult.'
- Share the link for the *Circle of Grace* video with parents and the community via bulletins, newsletters, and social media. *Circle of Grace* Meditation Video: <https://vimeo.com/207836764>.
- Share *Parents First- Special Edition- Your Family and Circle of Grace* by email or send home with students to introduce *Circle of Grace* concepts to parents.
- Meet with catechists and teachers to introduce or review the importance of the program.
- After lessons are taught, the lesson evaluations should be collected by the administration to help keep track of program implementation.

Lessons:

- Lessons are easy to follow and complement our Catholic teachings.
- Remember: if the leader is not passionate and enthusiastic about what they are teaching, the kids will not embrace the information.
- You do not have to be an expert in this area to teach the lessons. The most important aspect of the teaching is your passion for God's most precious gifts, our children.
- Each grade has everything needed to meet USCCB requirements.
- Students who only attend sacramental preparation classes should be taught the lesson for the current grade they are in when receiving the sacrament.
- Extra time should be spent reviewing the *Circle of Grace* Summary at the beginning of each lesson.
- There are parent letters/activities for K-Gr. 8. These need to go home the day the lesson is taught. They are also available as electronic files to email to parents. Parent letters are also available in Spanish and Vietnamese.
- Be aware that the content may trigger past issues for some adults teaching the lessons.
- Leaders/teachers need to be aware of how to respond to a child's disclosure.
- Be aware of child abuse and neglect laws, and reporting laws, in your state.
- We have a separate curriculum specifically designed to meet the needs of Family Faith programs, called *Family, Faith and Circle of Grace*®.

Resources:

- There are additional resources in the Administrator/Director section and on the COG partners website at <https://cogpartners.org>. These include the general letter to parents, and information on parenting and sexuality, suicide prevention, talking with children about trauma, common parent questions, bullying, adaptations for special needs students, and the Circle of Grace logo.
- ***Parents First* is a grade-specific newsletter for parents that discusses human sexuality in the context of our Catholic faith and Circle of Grace concepts.** *Parents First* is a resource designed as a guide to help parents talk to their children about human sexuality. *Circle of Grace* is a safety curriculum. Sexuality is not taught in the lessons. *Parents First* should be given directly to parents (in-person or by email) so that parents can decide when it is appropriate to discuss it with their child. This resource can be given out at any time during the year. *Parents First- Special Edition* newsletters are being developed on topics like Bullying, Sexual Abuse, Science and Religion, Gender and the Church, and more.