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### KidSafe: A Testimonial

Nothing is more important than the safety of a child. For several years, our Pre-K and Day School children have participated in KidSafe, a personal safety program. Through specially designed activities, games, songs, and skill rehearsals, the children have learned how to protect themselves from abduction and exploitation. Through the enthusiastic leadership of Cherie Benjoseph, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., KidSafe empowers children with the information, skills, and support they need to remain safe.

Among the many skills learned and practiced by the children during the nine weeks of KidSafe are:

Why we have rules

Who am I? Personal safety ("Me" safety)

Address and phone number

Checking first (with a grown up buddy)

Using your assertive voice (Finding our safety voices)

OK and not OK touches

No-Go-Tell

Accessing help – calling 911

A parent meeting precedes the nine week program, which gives the parents an overview of what the program will entail. It also enables parents to become familiar with KidSafe techniques and terminology. The last class consists of a Certificate Ceremony to which parents are invited. Each aspect of the program is demonstrated by the children. This is a great tool of empowerment, as well as pride, for the parents as well as the children.

During a recent Career Week visit, the Broward County Sheriff's Department officers were amazed at the amount of knowledge our elementary age children had internalized about their own personal safety. We attribute this success in great part to the KidSafe program and Cherie Benjoseph.

Our Early Childhood Center and Day School professionals and parents are great supporters of the KidSafe program, and we will continue to provide this life-enhancing opportunity to our children and our families.

Sandy Sherman  
Early Childhood Director

Michal Medina  
Day School Assistant Director