

# Child Protection Month

April 2019



## Prayer for Children

Leader: Creator God, we thank you for the gift of the children

**People: in our families, congregation, and community.**

Leader: They are a precious treasure.

**People: You entrust them to our nurture and protection.**

Leader: In our life together may we

**People: model and teach respect for children.**

Leader: As a church we will strive to

**People: protect them, as you protect us.**

Leader: May we always do all in our power to

**People: help them to grow and thrive.**

Leader: You place children in our hands, God.

**People: May we be your faithful servants in the sacred task of raising and protecting them.**

Leader: Use us as your servants for children, Loving God.

**All: Amen.**

## Parenting for Prevention

*“Okay, time to go—hugs, kisses, high fives, whatever you want to do.”*

That is what my daughter, Sarah, told our young grandchildren when it was time to head for the car at the end of a visit. It was her way of telling them to say their goodbyes.

It didn't really strike me until the third or fourth time I heard her say that, or something like it. Then I realized that she was putting the children in charge of what kind of goodbye they would give. Sometimes it's a hug or a kiss. At others a hand slap or wave. Or maybe the “goodbye” is a small face shyly pressed into Sarah's shoulder.

“Whatever you want to do!” How much better than being commanded to “give hugs” to Aunt Mary, Uncle Joe, or Mrs. Williams, or to all three of them.

As a seasoned child protective service worker, Sarah has seen what happens when children are raised without choices or power. She is parenting to help her children develop healthy boundaries and understand the importance of consent from their earliest years.

Dove's Nest provides tools to help churches and parents instill these values:

- *Circle of Grace* curriculum
- On-site and live video training events
- Child protection policy resources and consultations
- Parenting for Prevention study guide and other resources



[www.DovesNest.net](http://www.DovesNest.net)

*Empowering and equipping faith communities to keep children and youth safe in their homes, churches, and communities.*

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