

Kid Safety—4th Grade Course

Dear Teacher/Parent:

Kid Safety—4th Grade is an entertaining and engaging online course that alerts kids to different kinds of harm they may face. Central to the course is “**TRAC**,” the four safety skills that kids acquire to help them avoid danger and stay on “**TRAC**”: **T**rust your feelings; **R**espect yourself and others; **A**sk for help; and **C**are about others. Along the way, Eddie Zeffer (“EZ”), an out-going, “cool” 4th grader at E-Line Elementary School, provides comic relief and a kid “voice” by peppering the course with his reactions as well as his dream of becoming a movie director one day.

The course is organized around who’s potentially doing the harm: adults harming kids (child abuse); kid on kid harm (bullying); and self-harm (peer pressure and harmful choices). At the start, the **TRAC** skills are introduced and basic safety facts are the crux of the “**Safety Facts Game Show**.” In the first section, kids apply the **TRAC** skills to child abuse situations. For example, they interact with a “Feelings Meter” as they learn how to trust their feelings that are warning them of danger; they watch a mini-drama—“The Cat, the Dog, and the Turtle”—about respect; and there’s an opportunity to give EZ a dip in the “Dunk Tank.” Next, kids interact with a mini-drama about bullying called “Shane’s World” that is paused several times so kids can use their **TRAC** skills and respond to the action. And, the highlight of the last section is a mini-drama about caring for others and peer pressure in “It’s Not Easy Being Green.”

The course is primarily meant to be taken by 4th graders, individually. But, kids can also be “walked through” the course by a parent or teacher, as needed, to accommodate differing reading levels and sensitivities. Whichever way kids take the course, it is important to look out for their reactions and be ready to address their concerns—topics like sexual abuse and neglect can be difficult for some kids and there is always the possibility that kids taking the course have suffered abuse.

Once the course is completed (or during a break from the course), the intent is for participants to be part of a “kid safety” discussion led by a teacher and/or parent. The Teacher/Parent guide that accompanies the course highlights topics and scenarios that particularly lend themselves to more discussion, either because they are multifaceted, like the different types of child abuse, or because they are “sensitive” or difficult to convey through an online course, like “neglect” and “self-harm.”

Our hope is that through the experience of Kid Safety—4th Grade, along with the guidance and support of teachers and parents, kids will avoid harm and stay on **TRAC!**

Editorial Staff, LawRoom