

Our children are our only hope for the future, but we are their only hope for their present and their future.

— Zig Ziglar —

If we fail our children, where will they go?

- Teach children that their purity is precious and that it is worth protecting; that nobody has the right to take it away from them.
- Teach children to identify abuse – sugar daddies; friends with benefits; grooming; and help them to understand that it isn't normal behaviour.
- Help children identify risk factors – the places you hang out and the people you go with; the friends you have; the clothes you wear; the videos you watch, the danger of excluding trusted adults from your life.
- Help children to stay safe online – cyberbullying; sexting; social media groups; posting photos; sharing is **not** caring.
- Teach children what the law says about the age of consent and what their legal rights are; also when taking photos of themselves.
- Teach children how to say no – to themselves and others; do some assertiveness training.
- Create a school culture of saying no to any touching, peer pressure, intimidation, bullying, harassment, demeaning talk.
- Teach children self-defence techniques.
- Teach children where to report and how to get help.

NEVER FORGET

- The LO curriculum is not prescriptive in how far or in what way you must teach.
- **The DBE cannot force you to teach the CSE scripted lessons.**¹
- You are the adult – accept your role.
- Protect and respect the children under your care.
- Don't make vulnerable and abused children even more vulnerable and abused.
- You are responsible for what happens under your watch.
- Be a role model.
- Take ownership of the subject – don't rely on textbooks.
- Personal stuff stays personal – not for classroom discussion.
- Where possible involve parents and community leaders – help them play their role.
- Don't teach sensitive matters in a public setting (i.e. the classroom).
- Women talk to girls, men talk to boys; trustworthy adults.
- Only discuss what is necessary.
- Avoid hype – include other issues in these "away talks".
- Emphasise the importance of respect, good manners.
- **NO** suggestive comments, jokes, innuendoes.

LEARN TO SAY NO!

¹ <https://forsa.org.za/department-agrees-scripted-lesson-plans-are-voluntary-opens-them-for-comment/>

Teaching Life Orientation

Someone once said: "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops" and someone else said "Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best".



Life Orientation Teachers have a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in many children's lives and, ultimately, in the country.



What are we doing with this opportunity?

Children are
the living
messages
we send to a
time we will
not see.

~ Neil Postman

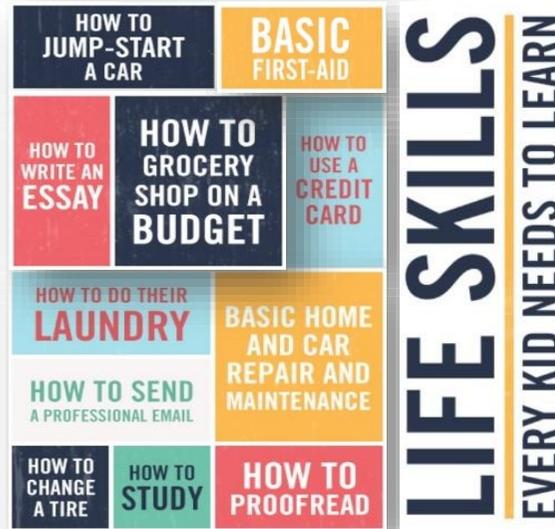


*As in medicine, a teachers should remember to
"First do no harm".*

Life Orientation teachers should take the time to make sure that:

- They read the CAPS and not the textbook.
- They understand the world the children live in – not just the physical world, but also the cyber world.
- They become life-long learners and educate themselves.
- They read up on the legal issues around cyber abuse, cyber invasion of privacy, bullying, social media, age of consent in South Africa.
- They educate themselves on financial management, CVs, workplace ethics, democracy and the media, and more.
- They learn new skills – plant a vegetable garden, learn to recycle, and pass all these skills on to the children they teach.
- They know their rights as teachers of LO.

Life Orientation is not an easy subject to teach, but you can make it meaningful – you are the one person that can teach the children how to survive life, and help them to acquire the life skills they need.



Other practical skills our children need ...

- How to survive university (apply, budget, bursaries, writing the NBT, accommodation, preparing for life away from parents).
- Navigating social media (safe practices on social media, cyber-bullying, sexting, privacy, the law and social media, posting photos and selfies, the permanence of what you post online).
- Getting a learner's and driver's license (help them study).
- Applying for an ID or a passport.
- Opening a bank account.
- Understanding the influence of the media on the way we think, dress, act.
- Create your own vegetable garden.
- Entrepreneurship and self-employment.
- How and why we vote.

**PROTECT
YOURSELF**

Teach them ...

- ... to protect themselves
- ... to say **NO!**
- ... to avoid risky situations and behaviours
- ... to identify danger
- ... to stop abuse
- ... to get help

Contact us for additional information or workshops.



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**It is easier to build
strong children
than to repair
broken men.**

Frederick Douglass

