



SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS & PARENTS

TEACH YOUR CHILD...

- To recite his/her name, address and phone number. Sometimes putting this information in a simple song helps a child remember.
- To never get in a car with anyone unless Mom or Dad say it is okay.
- To use a secret code word (if your child is old enough) if someone else is picking him/her up (set up the code word with the designated person ahead of time). Teach your child to always ask for that code word while standing a safe distance from the vehicle, before getting into anyone else's car.
- Not to get into cars or go into houses of neighbors he/she doesn't know very well. Go over a list of acceptable neighbors.
- That, if lost or in danger, he/she can locate a pay phone or a public phone and dial 9-1-1 for free.
- To never use a public restroom alone.
- That it is okay to say "No" to adults.
- To be as loud as possible if he/she is in danger.
- That it's okay to use physical violence, such as kicking or hitting, if he/she needs to protect himself/herself from danger.
- To never exit an area (such as a store, mall or zoo), even if the person helping asks him/her to step outside.
- To identify employee uniforms and to approach uniformed personnel if he/she is in danger.
- To approach a police officer if he/she has a problem. If a police officer or employee is not in sight, the next best person to ask for help is a woman with children. (Your child should not go anywhere with her; simply ask her to find help.)
- The correct names for body parts and, which parts are unacceptable for others to touch, i.e., anything covered by a bathing suit.
- To shout "No" or "Stop" if someone touches him/her inappropriately.

- That you trust his/her instincts, and even if your child makes a bad choice with an innocent stranger, you will support him/her.
- That even trusted people shouldn't ask him/her to do something that makes him/her uncomfortable.
- The difference between "secrets" and "surprises." A secret has no ending. An adult should not ask a child to keep a secret. A surprise has an ending and is okay.

PARENT'S SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Never leave your child unattended in a public place or in a car, even for a quick errand.
- Know your child's friends and their parents. Have a list with their phone numbers and addresses.
- Know the route your child takes from school to home.
- Designate "safe" houses in your neighborhood where your child may go if he/she is being harassed or followed.
- Be involved in your child's after-school activities.
- Keep a current photo and video of your child.
- Observe what your child is wearing each day.
- Keep a current copy of your child's fingerprints.
- Never put your child's name on the outside of his/her clothes or use nametags in public.
- If your child doesn't want to be with someone, ask why he/she is uncomfortable with this person—and pursue until you find a reason.
- Tell your child that if he/she gets lost, you will look for your child until you find him/her.
- Always perform a reference and/or background check on a new caregiver.
- Search for sexual offenders in your neighborhood at <http://www.familywatchdog.us/>.



For more child safety information, visit www.imsafe.com