

Safety Tips to Discuss with Your Children

The Basics: Know The Rules

1. Don't Go Out Alone
2. Always tell an adult where you are going.
3. Say NO if you feel threatened and then tell an adult.

Additional Considerations:

1. A stranger is someone who behaves in a strange or inappropriate way. Adults asking kids for help can be potentially dangerous. Kids beware! Always **verify** the situation with another adult.
2. Listen to your internal alarm system - **Follow Your Instincts** - If you feel funny about a situation, there is probably a good reason for it. Your **gut reaction** is your instinct. **Listen to it!**
3. Tell your children never to admit, either on the phone or at the door, to being home alone.
4. Never open the door when you are home alone. **Verify** all information.
5. Locate and point out to your children trusted neighbor's homes along the route to school, where they can get help. Explain the meaning of such refuges and safe places.
6. Select a neighbor or two who will provide a safe place for your kids if any threat or emergency arises while you are away from them. Give the neighbors phone numbers where you can be reached. Offer to do the same for them.
7. Give the school instructions to only release your children to people you have designated in writing.
8. Instruct children to look out for each other and to tell you when something suspicious or unusual occurs. Be prepared to assist a child who appears to be lost or in trouble.
9. Report to the police any suspicious individuals or vehicles lurking in areas where children play. Write down license plate numbers and a description of the vehicle when possible.
10. Take photographs of your child frequently. A current photo is the most useful tool in searching for a missing child.