

# Safety Tips

## For School, Play & Every Day



### Kids

#### **Watch Out For Potentially Dangerous Situations – and Tell a Trusted Adult**

- Always get permission from Mom/ Dad before you go anywhere with anyone – even if it’s someone you know.
- If an adult or older child – even someone you know – asks to do something that makes you feel uncomfortable, shout “No” and get away from that person. Tell a trusted adult immediately.
- Get away from people who offer you money or call you over to their car. Shout, “No.” Tell a trusted adult.
- Get away from people who ask you for directions or other help such as finding a lost pet.
- If someone tries to touch or grab you, yell “This is not my Mom/Dad!” Start kicking & screaming.
- If you’re being followed on foot, get away from that person as quickly as possible. Seek help from a trusted adult.
- If you’re being followed by a car, turn and go in the other direction. Seek help from a trusted adult.

#### **Stick to the Plan - and Use “The Buddy System”**

- Walk with friends, siblings, or neighbors – and stay with them when you reach your destination such as the playground, pool or mall. Never change your plans without telling your mom or dad.
- Stick to the plans *and* the planned route. When walking, or in public places, stay in well lit areas, and avoid shortcuts and isolated areas.

#### **Know Your Numbers**

- Know your address and your parents work, cell, and home phone numbers – with area code(s)!
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### Parents

#### **Get Them There Safely**

- Walk children to school or bus stop and wait with them if they are alone. Same goes for visiting a friend, or attending an event or participating in an activity.
- If you are unable to accompany children and feel they are mature enough, plan and walk the route with them beforehand, noting any safe houses or businesses.
- If driving to school or other activity, drop off and pick up children as close to the building as possible. When dropping them off, watch for them to enter the building.
- Arrange for a trusted adult to pick up your children if you are unable to do so.
- Never leave your child alone in a car or unattended in a supermarket or mall.
- Teach your child to find the nearest store clerk for help if you get separated.

#### **Get Involved**

- Whether it’s T-ball, scouting, dance, or crafts – take time to drop by, sit-in and otherwise observe.
- Ask the organizations your kids belong to about how they perform background checks on ALL personnel who may come in contact with children.
- Perform your own background/reference checks on anyone will be working in or around your home – not only childcare workers - but contractors, landscapers, cleaners etc.
- Take note if any adult is showing undue attention to your child – and talk to your child about this special interest in a non-threatening way to discover possible motives.
- Talk to your kids about safety – and be sure they know it’s always safe to tell you about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable, sad or scared.
- Review these and other safety tips from time to time. Present them in a relaxed conversational atmosphere using “What would you do if...” situations rather than memorizing them by rote: “What would you do if that nice lady we met at our garage sale offered you a ride while you were walking home from school one day?”



**Bringing missing children home since 1980**