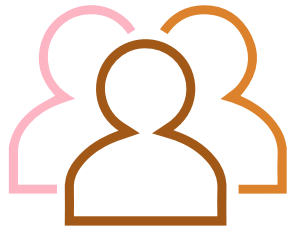


Safety Tips for Children.

What Can I Do?

Because children cannot look out for themselves, it is our responsibility as parents to foresee problems they might encounter. The most important key to child safety is open, frequent, and effective communication. Children are naturally trusting, especially with adults. Parents must teach children to balance this trust with caution. Educate children in a gentle manner by giving them certain rules to remember. This will build the self-confidence they need to handle dangerous situations.

Teach children to be street-smart.



Friends

Get to know your children's friends. Encourage children to play in groups, not alone. Besides being safe, it is more fun.



Strangers

Tell your children never to go with, or talk to, strangers. Make sure your child knows what a stranger is.



The Neighborhood

Walk the neighborhood with them and show them the safe places to go, such as a trusted neighbor's house or business.



Muggings

If someone on the street demands money, jewelry, or other items from your child, advise the child to hand it over.



Cars and Vans

Instruct children to stay away from individuals in cars or vans. Teach them that it is okay to decline an invitation for a free ride by simply ignoring the invitation.

Basic Tips

- Teach children their full name, the name of their parents or guardian, their address, and home telephone number with the area code..
- Teach children how to use the telephone (cell phone and landline) to call "911" or "0" if an emergency occurs. Practice periodically on a disconnected telephone.
- Maintain open communication with your children. Listen to their feelings and fears about certain people and uncomfortable places. Help them to learn to trust their instincts.
- The National SAFEKIDS Campaign recommends that no child under the age of 12 be left at home alone.