

PERSONAL SAFETY FOR CHILDREN

- Stand tall and walk confidently - know where you are going.
- Be alert to your surroundings.
 - Keep your eyes and ears open.
 - Do not daydream or wear headphones.
 - Know what is happening around you.
- Don't take shortcuts
 - They could be dangerous.
 - Stay in areas that are busy.
- At night, stick to areas that are well lit.
- Walk with friends (buddy system).
- Know that a stranger is anyone you and your parents don't know very well or at all.
 - Never accept a ride from a stranger.
 - Never take candy, money or anything from a stranger.
 - If a stranger in a car asks you a question, don't get close to the car and NEVER get in it.
 - Remember that bad strangers can be very tricky.
 - They may ask you to "show" them where something is.
 - They may offer to pay for something or give you something.
 - They may ask you to help find their lost kitty or puppy.
- If you think someone is following you, go to where there are people, go inside a store, run the other way.
- Stay away from suspicious people or places.
- Avoid strangers who seem to be hanging around public rest rooms, playgrounds, schoolyards, etc.
- Don't tell anyone (except for a police officer) your name and address when you are out walking.
- Don't be fooled if someone calls you by your name because they may be reading your name on your shirt.
- Don't flash money or expensive items.
- Trust your instincts.
- If you feel scared or uncertain, go tell a trusted person: Parent, teacher/principle, police officer, neighbor/friend, store clerk, baby sitter, etc.
- If you are in a situation that makes you feel uncomfortable in any way, you have the right to say NO loud and clear. A stranger can be someone you know, but is now acting strange.
- If you think you are in danger, yell and run to the nearest safe place home, friends house, school, store, etc.
- Don't open the door to anyone you don't know well.
- Don't tell people that you're home alone.
- Know how to call the police – 911.

TO PARENTS:

Teach your child:

- To dial 911 (or 0) for help (on both push-button and dial phones). If you dial 911 and hang-up - your call will be traced and an officer will come by your home to check on you.
- To memorize their name, telephone number and address.
- To not play or walk alone in public areas.
- To not play in isolated areas.
- To avoid taking shortcuts.
- To know what a stranger or strange situation is.
- To not go with a stranger.
- To know how to avoid a stranger and/or strange situation.
- To trust their instincts (even if it is a friend or relative that is making them uncomfortable).

- To learn to say NO, especially to uncomfortable touches or situations.
- To not open the door to anyone they don't know well.
- To not tell anyone they are home alone.
- To keep the doors locked.
- To not go into anyone else's house without your permission.
- To yell and run away fast if threatened.
- To tell you if anyone asks them to keep a secret, offers them gifts or money, asks to take their picture, or asks them to get into a car.
- To tell you about anything that makes them uncomfortable.

DO THOROUGH BACKGROUND CHECKS OF BABY SITTERS AND DAY CARE PERSONNEL.

DON'T MAKE THE STRANGER'S JOB EASIER BY PUTTING YOUR CHILD'S NAME IN A VISIBLE AREA ON CLOTHES, BOOKBAGS, ETC.

DO LISTEN CAREFULLY TO YOUR CHILDREN AND LET THEM KNOW THEY CAN TALK TO YOU ABOUT ANYTHING.

KNOW WHO YOUR CHILD'S FRIENDS ARE AND MEET THEIR PARENTS.