



Ten Safety Tips to Help Protect Your Child

1. Teach your child your full name as well as theirs, your full telephone number including area code, and your full address. Teach them how to use the telephone (including cellular) and a pay phone to make both local and long distance calls, to call home, a relative, "O" for the operator, and 911 for emergencies.
2. Keep up-to-date files on your children, including a recent photograph, physical description, information on friends, including addresses and telephone numbers. Update all information regularly, photographs four times a year for children under two. Have a set of their footprints or fingerprints taken by police (for you to keep), and be able to locate dental and medical records if necessary.
3. Make a mental note of the clothes your children wear EVERYDAY. Avoid putting their names on the outside of clothing or books. Children may respond more readily to someone who calls them by name. Know where your children are at all times. Never leave them unattended in a public place, car, stores, etc. Children should only play in a supervised area.
4. Be sure your children know what to do in case you become separated from them. If separated while shopping, they should not look for you or leave the store, go to the parking lot to your car, or hide if scared. They should go immediately to the nearest clerk and ask for help.
5. Explain to your children exactly who a stranger is. Children should never get into or go child safety near a building or car of someone they do not know or take gifts from these people. Being polite to adults is okay but they are allowed to say NO when adults ask for assistance. Be aware of anyone who pays an unusual amount of attention to your children. Listen if they do not want to be left alone with someone.

6. Choose a secret code word to use with your children in case of an emergency. Tell them never to go with anyone who does not know this code word. Stress that the word should be kept secret and change it frequently. Instruct your children's schools or day care centers to notify you IMMEDIATELY if your children are absent. Inform them of the people authorized to pick them up from school. Try to have the same person every day if possible.

7. Ask your children to tell you about uncomfortable situations, anyone who asks them to keep a secret or any adults they meet. In a non-threatening way, explain the many tactics possible abductors use to lure children away with them and how they should respond in these situations.

8. Check your children's route to and from school pointing out dangerous spots, such as vacant lots, alleyways, etc. Encourage the buddy system when possible and advise them what to do if a stranger follows or approaches them. Get to know your neighbors, particularly if you are new to the neighborhood. Encourage them to participate in a "Safe Home" program. Establish safe homes where children can go for help.

9. Be extremely cautious when selecting anyone who will have responsibility for your children in your absence. Meet with anyone you are considering and check their references. If your children must be left home alone make sure to explain the proper way to answer the telephone and the door in your absence.

10. Let your children know that you are willing to talk and listen to anything they may want to tell you. Never underestimate any fears or concerns they have. Children should trust their own feelings and know that you are always concerned for their safety.