

Tips For Safeguarding Your Children

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

Home reinforcement of these safety tips is the key in helping protect your child from harm. Please familiarize yourself with the following tips and review them with your child regularly.

1. Rehearse with your children their full name, address and telephone number. Teach them how to make emergency calls and how to dial 9-1-1.
2. Play games such as “What if” to help a child think about dangerous situations. Design role plays using situations that might be tempting or confusing to help him/her decide the best protective action. (example someone looking for a lost puppy in the park) (example-being touched on private parts by anyone)
3. Teach your children to never accept a ride from anyone they don’t know and do not approach a vehicle to talk to the occupants. Stay back away from the vehicle. If an occupant gets out, immediately run to a safe place. Run the opposite way if possible.
4. Make sure your child knows their neighborhood and knows where to go if there is an emergency.
5. Never open the door to a stranger.
6. If your child gets lost in a store, RUN and TELL a store employee.
7. If your child see a gun or is offered illegal drugs, RUN and TELL a trusted adult
8. When personalizing clothing or backpacks, make sure your child’s name is not visible to strangers who could use the information to confuse your child and lure them away.
9. Teach them to say “No” if someone they don’t know asks them to go to anywhere with them. Let your children know that it is okay to say “no” to an adult, especially in a dangerous situation.
10. If they are grabbed by someone trying to abduct them, instruct them to yell, scream, kick, scratch, bite, fall to the ground, do anything to draw attention from bystanders. Yell “This is not my mommy (or Daddy)”. Keep yelling and never give up.

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