

Children Safety



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Child Abductions

- Relative
- Someone the child knows
 - In 2014 there were 466,949 entries for missing children.
 - It is estimated that over half of nonfamily abductions are committed by someone the child knows.



Teaching children to avoid strangers is not enough!

- Teach them to recognize and respond to potentially dangerous situations.

Attempted Child Abductions

- Involved a suspect vehicle
- Occurred between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Occurred while child was traveling to or away from school
- Involved girls and children between the ages of 10 and 14.

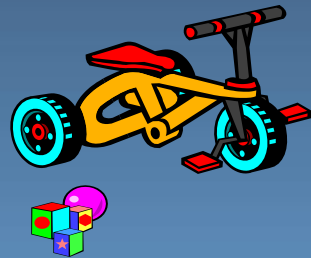
* National Center for Missing children



Tricks

➤ The Offer Trick

A child is offered something desirable — like candy, money, toys, or a ride.



- Children should not accept gifts without your permission. Use teachable moments, like when a friend or relative offers a gift, to practice this concept with your child.

Trick

➤ The Animal Trick

A cute or interesting animal is used to get the child to follow or enter a vehicle or home.

- Teach your children to never enter anyone's vehicle or home without your permission.



Trick

➤ The Help Trick

The child is asked to help with something such as directions, looking for a lost pet, or carrying something.



- Adults should ask other adults for help, not children. Have your child practice saying “I can’t help you” in a firm voice. Teach children to stand at least one to two arms’ lengths away while interacting with unknown adults.

Trick

➤ The friend trick

A person tells the child he or she has been sent by the child's parent. Sometimes the person actually does know the parent.

- Talk to your child's school about obtaining permission from you before releasing your child to anyone.



Trick

➤ The “bad” child trick

Someone accuses the child of doing something wrong and says the child must go with him or her.

- Teach your child to always check with you or the adult in charge before going anywhere with anyone. Instruct children to immediately tell you if someone approaches them or tries to take them away.



Trick

➤ The flattery/model trick

Someone compliments the child and asks to take his or her picture. The person may promise the child fame or fortune.

- Instruct your child not to accompany anyone anywhere without your permission. Teach older children that a legitimate photographer or casting agency will try to talk to a parent or guardian, not a child.



Trick

➤ The open-the-door trick

Someone tries to get the child to answer the door when the parents aren't home.

- Remind your children they shouldn't open the door for anyone when you aren't home. Let them know legitimate service people will return.

Trick

➤ **The Emergency Trick**

Someone fakes an emergency and offers to take the child to another location.



- Instruct your child to never go anywhere with anyone without asking the permission of the adult in charge. Have your child practice saying, “I can’t go with you until I check with my mom/dad/teacher” in a firm voice and walking away.



“Stranger Danger”

- Children don't understand the concept of stranger.
- Children sometimes need to turn to people they don't know for help. (Lost children)
- “Somebody they don't know”
- Teach children to recognize and respond to threatening situations.
- Use role-playing-scenarios to help children practice their prevention skills.



- Don't say: Never talk to strangers.
- Say: You should not approach just anyone. If you need help, look for a uniformed police officer, a store clerk with a nametag, or a parent with children.

- Don't say: Stay away from people you don't know.
- Say: It's important for you to get my permission before going anywhere with anyone.

- Don't say: You can tell someone is bad just by looking at them.
- Say: Pay attention to what people do. Tell me right away if anyone asks you to keep a secret, makes you feel uncomfortable, or tries to get you to go with them.



Taking Action

1. Know the routes your child travels and help them identify places they can go for help.
2. Talking to them about walking with a friend or group.
3. Teach your child to KICK, YELL and PULL away!



Take Action

4. Prepare children to act when you are not with them. They should know their full names, home addresses and telephone numbers, and how to dial 911.
5. Keep a child identification kit, which includes a recent color photo of your child and descriptive details such as age, height and weight.



Teach Prevention Skills

- Asking for permission before changing plans.
- Asking for permission before approaching or getting into vehicles with anyone.
- Recognizing the tricks would-be abductors use, such as offering rides or asking for help.
- Telling a trusted adult whenever anything or anyone makes them uncomfortable



Project Thumbprint

How the program works:

- Thumb Drive memory storage devices are used to store current pictures and personal descriptive information of a child. These portable USB devices can be kept with the parents at all times and used in case of an emergency even while on vacation away from home. The pictures can easily be updated and may also show unique features of a child such as marks, moles, scars, etc. The documents contain investigative information as listed in a missing persons report or AMBER Alert activation. Only two pieces of information are not listed, date of birth and Social Security number, as these are the parent's keys to relate when talking with investigators. A PSP Child ID Kit is also provided to be used as a worksheet activity for the child and parent to discuss the parent's expectations of safety.



Kid Smartz™



Amber Alert

- Activated 1997
 - Since 1997-2015 it has been credited with the safe recovery of 723 children

Provides descriptive information about the child and the perpetrator, if known, to the public in the hope of enlisting public support in the search efforts. Utilizes the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to inform the public of an abduction. The ultimate goal is to save the life of the child.



Lost Child?

- 1. Get involved if you see a child who appears to be lost.
- 2. Comfort the child but avoid physically touching him or her.
- 3. Ask the child if he or she is lost or knows the location of his or her parent/guardian.
- 4. Refrain from requesting too much personal information since children are taught not to give out this information to people they do not know.



Lost Child?

- 5. Contact law-enforcement authorities to report the incident.
- 6. Ask other adults in the area for assistance in reporting the incident to a person in a position of authority in the area while waiting for law enforcement's arrival.
- 7. Remain in the immediate location, and do not take the child elsewhere. Do not place the child in your vehicle and drive to a different location to seek help.
- 8. Wait with the child until help arrives.



Resources

- Kidsmartz.org
- Missingchildren.org
- Missingkids.com



NetSmartz® Workshop

A PROGRAM OF THE
NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN®

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Music produced by Matt Huesmann



Best Resource

Remember YOU are the best resource, when it comes to keeping your child safe.

The more you know about abduction prevention, the better protected your child will be. Use your knowledge to make conversations about personal safety a regular part of your family's routine.



Thank you!

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