




Safety Tips for Children



As soon as children are old enough to articulate a sentence, they can begin the process of learning how to protect themselves against abduction and exploitation. Children should be taught the following safety measures and tips.

- **WHO I AM AND WHERE I LIVE:** Learn your full name, birthdate, address, phone number with area code, and your parents' full names.
- **WHAT I DO IF I CAN'T FIND MY PARENTS:** If you are in a public place and you get separated from your parents, don't wander around looking for them. Go to a checkout counter, the security office, or the lost and found. Tell the person in charge that you have lost your mom and dad and need help finding them.
- **CHECK FIRST:** Always check with your parents, teacher or babysitter before getting into a car or going anywhere with any person. **CHECK FIRST** before going into a neighbor's house. **CHECK FIRST** before going anywhere. Your parents need to know where you are.
- **USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM:** It's more fun and there is safety in numbers. You should not be wandering around the neighborhood alone or after dark.
- **STAY AWAY:** If someone follows you on foot or in a car, stay away from him or her. You shouldn't go near the car to talk to the people inside.
- **DON'T ASSIST ADULTS:** No adult should be asking you for directions, to look for a lost puppy, or for help. Adults should ask adults for help, not children.

more tips →



RUN, SCREAM, GET AWAY: If someone tries to take you away, your best defenses are your legs and your voice. Yell, "This person is trying to take me," or "This is not my father (or mother)." Try to run and scream before they get too close. Call 911 from any phone – it's free.

NEVER HITCHHIKE: Never try to get a ride home with anyone unless you have checked with your parents and they say it's okay.

DON'T KEEP SECRETS: Don't keep secrets that make you feel uncomfortable. No one should ask you to keep a special secret. Tell an adult that you trust.

YOUR BODY IS SPECIAL AND PRIVATE: No one should touch you in the parts covered by your bathing suit, nor should you touch anyone else in those areas.

KNOW THAT YOU ARE SPECIAL: If you have a problem – any kind of a problem – you can talk to your parents, a teacher, a counselor, your principal, a police officer or a trusted adult.

YOU CAN CALL 911: If you have an emergency or are in a situation where you feel you are in danger, call 911. You will get help.



For additional information about the Minnesota Department of Corrections, visit www.doc.state.mn.us or phone 651-361-7200, TTY 800-627-3529. This information will be provided in an alternative format upon request.
June 2009