

TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO SPOT TROUBLE

Friendly adults can be dangerous strangers.

Adults who offer treats to children may be offering threats instead. Teach young children what a stranger is and that any adult can cause them harm! Play "What If" games with your child. Focus on prevention strategies. For instance: What if a stranger or other adult comes up to you and says, "Come and look at the kittens in the trunk of my car", what would you do? Discuss running, yelling, kicking and reporting information which includes a description of the person.

- Tell** your children never to accept rides or gifts from someone without your permission, create a code word so your child would know what to do.

- Teach** your children to go to a store clerk, security guard, or police officer for help if lost in a mall, store, or on the street.

- A child** who has low self-esteem cannot protect himself/herself. Listen carefully to your children's fears, and be supportive in all discussions with them, replacing fear with knowledge.

- Make** sure children know their address and phone number by heart and the location of their house.

- Know** where your children are at all times. Be familiar with their friends and daily activities.

- Teach** your children that if they are being followed to keep walking to a public place, like a library or a store.

- Children** need positive role models and need to know where to go for help.

- Children** at all ages can make decisions. Practice early with your children helping them with making little decisions so big decisions later are easier. Teach them to trust their own feelings, and assure them they have the right to say NO to what they sense is wrong.

- Teach** your children that no one should approach them or touch them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable. If someone does, they should tell you immediately.

- Teach** your children what they need to know to be safe and let them know you will do your best to protect them. Don't scare the fun out of children.

Police, Fire, and Medical Emergencies 911

Cleveland Division of Police
(Headquarters) ... (216) 623-5000
1300 Ontario Street – Cleveland, OH
44113

First District **3895 W. 130th St.**
(216) 623-5100

Second District **3841 Fulton Road**
(216) 623-5200

Third District **10600 Chester Ave.**
(216) 623-5300

Fourth District **9333 Kinsman Road**
(216) 623-5400

Fifth District **881 E. 152nd St.**
(216) 623-5500

Missing Person(s) Website:
www.city.cleveland.oh.us

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE A COMPLAINT REGARDING POLICE MISCONDUCT?

If you feel an officer has acted unprofessionally you may file a complaint at:

- The Office of Professional Standards.... 205 West St. Clair – Suite 301 or call (216) 664-2944.

- Any of the above-listed Cleveland Division of Police facilities.



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson

MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE BUREAU OF COMMUNITY POLICING COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT

2001 Payne Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114
Tel: (216)623-5080 Fax: (216)623-5090

Missing Person(s) Cleveland Tipline:
(216) 664-4477
National Tipline: 1-800-843-5687

MISSING AND EXPLOITED
CHILDREN
WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Talking to children about certain dangers to their personal safety makes many adults uneasy. It's difficult and painful to acknowledge that there are people around who want to harm children, and some safety rules you'll teach your children may seem to contradict other values, like being polite and obeying adults.

Some adults can tell you what to do; such as parents, a teacher or a police officer. No adult can tell you what to do just because he or she is bigger than you. If you're ever in a situation that makes you feel uncomfortable in any way, you have the right to say "NO". **IMMEDIATELY TELL YOUR PARENTS, WHAT HAPPENED!!!**

Children have a right to know about potential threats to their safety, and what to do if they find themselves in trouble. Safe basic knowledge will increase their confidence and self-reliance, and you'll feel better knowing that they know how to cope when you're not around. More and more kids today spend time at home and play while their parents are at work.

Teach your children how to operate the telephone to call for emergency assistance by calling 9-1-1.

It is very important, when teaching children personal safety and caution, that they don't become overly frightened. Don't present too much information at once; young children can't absorb a lot at one time.

Children should know of course, that the reason for learning and following safety rules is because they are loved. Rules should not be seen as arbitrary and adults should take time to be consistent with the rules they teach, and practice what they preach.

It is normal and natural that children will spend time playing or traveling out of the sight of trusted and caring adults. The best way to keep trouble away from kids is to teach them to avoid areas and situations where strangers might lurk.

Here are some basic "***play it safe***" rules for children. Make sure your children learn and follow these basic rules when you're not around:

- Never** open the door to your house or apartment to anyone you don't know.
- Never** tell callers that you're home alone. Say mom and dad can't come to the telephone, but you will have them call him or her back.
- Always** avoid adults and strangers who are hanging around restrooms, playgrounds, or schools and want to play with you or your friends.
- Never** accept rides, candy, gifts, money or medicine from an adult or stranger, without your parents permission.
- Never** get close to a car if an adult or stranger calls out to you for directions. It is easy for an adult to pull you into a car.

•**Strangers** can be very tricky; they can ask you to walk with them to "show" them something; they can offer to pay you for your video game, or ask you to help them find a lost dog or cat. Don't be fooled!

Always check with your parents if any adult makes you feel uncomfortable, it doesn't have to be a stranger!

•**Never** give your name or address to a stranger.

•**Don't** think that because someone knows your name that they know you; maybe they're looking at your t-shirt.

•**Never** play in deserted areas such as the woods, a parking lot, an alley, deserted buildings, or new construction.

•**Always** stick to a safe walking route when traveling to and from school or a friend's house.

•**Never** play or loiter in such public areas such as washrooms or elevators.

•**Wait** with a friend for public transportation. Sit or stand near the driver on the bus.

•**Never** display money in public. Carry money only if necessary and keep it in a pocket until needed.

•**Never** walk or play alone outside at night.

•**Always** tell a family member or other adult in charge where you'll be at all times, and what time you'll be home.

•**Never hitchhike. NEVER!!!!**