

## Safety First!- Children Safety Tips for Parents

- Be alert and aware of people and their surroundings.
- Familiarize your child with parent's name, phone number and home address and who they can tell.
- Always ask permission before leaving home or the yard.
- If your child is out, discuss the locations of safe havens, your child can go for safety: houses of neighbors you trust, stores, shops, police and fire stations, business offices.
- Walk/play with other children and try not to be alone. There is safety in numbers.
- Talk to your child about their friends and get to know them and their parents.
- Stay in well-lighted areas and in public view.
- Teach your child to report suspicious persons to you, teachers, trusted adults or police officers.
- Establish a code word with your child, instructing them NEVER to go with anyone who does not know the code word.
- Remove identifying names/addresses visible from the public from clothes or backpacks.
- If your child is approached or followed by a suspicious vehicle or person:
  - 1) Scream, Say NO
  - 2) Run away in the opposite direction
  - 3) Run to a safe haven
  - 4) Call the police.
- Teach your child what to take notice of when they encounter a suspicious vehicle or person: Type and color of vehicle, license plate number, and description of occupants to include gender, clothing and any distinguishing marks.
- Let your child know that they can dial 9-1-1 from a public phone or a cell phone in case of an emergency.
- Parents should keep a booklet or have an updated (every 6 months) physical description and color photograph of child. Recommend to have medical and dental records, sample of DNA and child fingerprints in a known location.
- If a child is lost or missing, call 911 immediately.

For more additional information these are great resources.

[https://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/psc\\_english\\_02/intro.html](https://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/psc_english_02/intro.html)

<http://www.safekids.org/parents/>