

CHILD SAFETY



SAFETY FOR CHILDREN

- Teach your children their personal information and make sure they have it memorized. This information should include their full name, phone number, and address including city and state.
- Agree on a secret password with your children; if anyone gives them a ride, or comes inside your home, they must know the password before your child complies with the request. Only tell the password to individuals that you trust. Change it as frequently as necessary in order to keep it a secret.
- Teach them who to go to in case they get lost in a store, the mall, or on the street: a store clerk, security guard, or police.
- When your children express fears and feelings about people and places, make sure to listen. Reassure them to trust their instincts, and help them be able to figure out where to go if they are in danger.
- Have your children walk to school with friends instead of by themselves. Walk these routes with your children before they walk it alone. Make sure that they know safe places they can stop if they feel that there is danger. Tell children to avoid areas that could be dangerous such as empty buildings, alleys, and parks or playgrounds that have broken equipment or otherwise look unkempt. Encourage children to be aware of what is going on around them. If there is anything that seems wrong or out of place, they should let a trusted adult know.
- Check out the policies and references of places where you leave your child, such as daycare, school, or with a babysitter. What are their certifications and will they call you if your child misses a day?

HOME ALONE

- Before leaving children home alone, make sure they are old enough and mature enough to be responsible for themselves.
- Leave a phone number where you can be reached as well as numbers for neighbors and in case of emergencies. Make sure to leave these numbers by the phone, on the refrigerator, or somewhere that your children will be able to reference them easily.
- Have them check in with you when they arrive home. Let them know what the rules are for having friends over or leaving for a friend's house when no adult is home.
- Make sure that there is an adult - whether it is you, a neighbor, or an older sibling - who is responsible for knowing where children are when they are left alone.
- Make sure they do not enter your empty house or apartment if something is suspicious, such as a broken window or torn screen.
- Teach your children not to let anyone into the house without your permission.
- Never let a caller or someone at the door know that your child is there without an adult.
- Don't leave a house key hidden outside. Make sure your child carries a house key with them and it is in a safe place.
- Make sure they notify parents/guardians before going to a friend's house.