

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Help your children learn how to get away, and keep a safe distance from an unfamiliar person who is trying to trick or force them to go with him or her. Discuss what to do if the person has a weapon. Although inherent with risks, sometimes a child's only chance of survival, when approached by a person with a weapon, is to run or forcibly resist capture. Here are a few tips that can help keep your children safe:

- Talk to your children about safe places to run if they are scared
- Ask your children to let you know about anything that seems suspicious.
- Teach your children how to describe people and vehicles.
- Tell your children to never go off alone with anyone who says you sent them, unless the person can give a "code word" that only you and your children know.
- Tell your children to stay with a buddy or the group when waiting at the bus stop or playing in the park.
- Require your children to let you know where they are at all times.
- Teach your children to write down and report the license number of the person's car when someone offers them a ride.
- Observe children at bus stops and report any disturbances. Assist them if they need help.
- Become familiar with persons and vehicles that drop off and pick up children from the bus stop.
- Report any people hanging around or any cars passing by the children on a regular basis.
- If your children miss the school bus, tell them not to accept a ride from anyone not pre-approved by you as a backup.
- Help monitor the bus stop or arrange for other parents to monitor it.
- Teach children how to spot trouble and be alert to dangerous situations.
- Make sure your children never play in deserted areas such as the woods, parking lots, or alleys.
- If your children must be home alone, tell them that they should never open the door for anyone and should keep all doors and windows locked.
- Help your children plan the best route to take when walking to school - never take shortcuts.
- Emphasize to your children they should NEVER, EVER hitchhike - NEVER!
- To find a Safe Place Program near you, go to the National Safe Place website: www.safeplaceservices.org

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TIPS

- Leave home in time to arrive at your bus stop on time.
- Stay out of the street and avoid horseplay.
- Follow instructions from your parents and bus driver about when and where to wait at the bus stop.
- Ask the driver for help if you drop anything near the bus. Do not go under or near the bus where the driver cannot see you.
- Never walk behind the school bus.
- Remain seated at all times and keep the aisle clear.
- Use the handrails to avoid falls.
- Keep your arms, legs, and head inside the bus.

If you would like to receive information on Amber and



SAFE PASSAGE

to and from school



Missing Child Alerts, register your email address at
www.missingchildrenalert.com

If you want to find out what
Sexual Predators/Offenders
are in your neighborhood, go to
www.fdle.state.fl.us
1-888-FL-PREDATOR (357-7332)

If you would like more preventative information on how you can protect
your children, check out the following websites:

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
www.missingkids.org
1-800-THE LOST (843-5678)

Jimmy Ryce Center for Victims of Predatory Abduction
www.jimmyryce.org
1-800-JIM RYCE (546-7923)

Missing Children Information Clearinghouse
www.fdle.state.fl.us
1-888-FL-MISSING (356-4774)



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A GUIDE...

How to be safe!



Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)

Missing Children Information Clearinghouse

SAFE PASSAGE

What would you do if someone approached you at your school bus stop or during your walk to or from school and tried to get you to go with him or her? Here are some tips on how to keep yourself safe:



BE ON THE LOOKOUT

- Watch the faces of drivers passing by.
- Notice the faces of cars parked in the area.
- *Do not go near any vehicles.*

Hey! Will you help me find my dog?



Can you give me directions please?



TURN AND RUN

- If anyone tries to get you near a car, back away. Even when you say NO - keep a safe distance. Never violate the safe distance rule.
- If a person tries to get you in the car, turn and run in the opposite direction.
- Always fight back to get away from the person.
- Never go off with anyone without permission from your parents.

SCREAM TO BE SEEN

- Yell loud enough to attract attention to yourself and scare the person away.
- People will help if they know you are in trouble. They can give information to law enforcement.



SHOW AND TELL

- Run home as fast as you can, to a friend's house, back to school, or to a Safe Place.
- Tell a trusted adult what happened.
- Hop aboard the bus if it is there and tell the driver what happened.
- Share the information with your bus stop patrol, teacher, or principal when you get to school.
- Call your parents and tell them what just happened to you. They can report it to law enforcement.
- Show any injuries that you received while getting away.
- Show officials the area where the person tried to get you.



Contact Law Enforcement



WALK AND WAIT WITH A BUDDY

- Walk to and from school and wait at your school bus stop with a buddy and, if possible, an adult approved by your parents.
- If someone makes you scared or uncomfortable, get away from him or her, and tell a trusted adult about your feelings about that person.
- Never give your name or address to anyone without your parents permission.
- When you go home, lock the door and do not open it except for your parents or whoever takes care of you.
- When answering the phone, never say that you are home alone.
- Do not tell people about your family vacation plans.
- Do not play on the playground around unfamiliar adults or older children you do not know.
- Stay away from people who hang around the restrooms; do not go into the restroom alone.



**Missing Children
Information Clearinghouse
1-888-FL-MISSING**

If you're a youth in crisis needing help fast, look for the yellow and black, diamond-shaped Safe Place signs on businesses, public locations and buses. Help is available wherever you see the sign.