

Take 25

25 Ways to make kids safer

At Home

1. Teach children their full name, address and home telephone number. Make sure they know your full name and how to reach you at work or on your cellphone.
2. Teach children how and when to call **911**, and make sure they have a trusted adult to call if they're scared or have an emergency.
3. Instruct children to keep doors locked and not to open doors to talk to anyone when they are home alone.
4. Choose babysitters with care. Ask children about their experiences and listen carefully to their responses.

Out and About

5. Walk or drive the route to and from school with children, pointing out landmarks and safe places to go if they need help.
6. Remind children not to play alone outside, to take a friend whenever they walk or bike to school and to stay with a group when going on outings.
7. Take children on a walking tour of the neighborhood. Tell them whose homes they may visit without you.
8. Teach children to ask permission before leaving home.

Online

9. Remind children it is **OK** to say no to anything making them feel scared, uncomfortable or confused. Teach children to tell you if anything or anyone makes them feel this way.
10. Teach children to never approach a vehicle, occupied or not, unless they are accompanied by a parent or other trusted adult.
11. Caution children never to accept a ride from anyone unless you have told them it is **OK** to do so in each instance.
12. Teach children to check in with you if there is a change of plans.
13. Establish a central, easy-to-locate spot during family outings to meet should you get separated.
14. Teach children how to locate help in public places. Identify people they can ask for help such as uniformed law enforcement/security guards and store clerks with nametags.
15. Help children learn to recognize and avoid potential risks so they can address them if they happen.
16. Teach children if anyone tries to grab them, they should make a scene and make every effort to get away by kicking, screaming and resisting.
17. Continually dialogue with children about online safety.
18. Keep the computer in a high-traffic area of your home. Monitor and establish rules concerning your child's online activities and cellphone use.
19. Be aware of the type of access your child has to the Internet at school, libraries or friends' homes.
20. Surf the Internet with your children and let them show you what they like to do online.
21. Know who is connecting with your children online and set limits for online communications including social networking, instant messaging, emailing, online gaming and using webcams.
22. Use privacy settings on social networking sites to limit contact with unknown users, and make sure their screen names do not reveal too much information.
23. Caution children not to post revealing information or inappropriate photos of themselves or their friends online.
24. Encourage children to tell you if anything they encounter online makes them feel sad, scared or confused.
25. Learn about the Internet. Visit www.NetSmartz.org for more information about Internet safety.



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To learn more about child safety, visit

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