
Safety for Kids Walking To and From School

TALK with your kids – WALK with your kids – PRACTICE with your kids

**TALK
together
to make a
Safety Plan
so your
kids will
know:**

- They are safest walking in groups and, if they are younger, with an adult you identify.
- To always get permission from you or another adult in charge before they change their plan about going anywhere with anyone, whether it is a stranger or someone they know.
- To always get your permission about where they go, who will be with them, and what they will be doing.
- That a stranger is someone they do not know well, can look like anybody, and might know their name.
- That most people are good and most strangers are good, but they do not know what someone is like just by how that person looks or acts.
- To NOT get close to a stranger; talk to a stranger; take anything from a stranger, or go with a stranger – unless they have their adult's permission.
- If they are old enough to talk to a stranger, to stay out of reach and not give personal information.
- To move away and get help if someone makes them feel uncomfortable or tries to approach them.
- How to get help in an emergency from people you've designated along their route.
- To tell a trusted adult every time someone makes them feel uncomfortable or scared.

**WALK
together
to
determine:**

- The safest route to follow that will avoid isolated places, difficult streets to cross, and other hazards.
- Where to go and who to ask for help if kids have a safety problem on the route -- preferably adults you have introduced them to -- in a church, store, a neighbor's house, and/or other places.
- What to do if kids get lost, if they cannot stay on their route, or if someone bothers them.
- Each child's safety readiness for walking on their own without an adult.

**PRACTICE
together
until you
are SURE
your kids
are
prepared
to:**

- Use their awareness to notice and avoid safety problems from people, traffic, or other possible trouble.
- Act aware, calm, and confident in every situation.
- Move quickly out of reach from a stranger or anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Follow their safety plan even if a friend tries to persuade them otherwise.
- Find a place with people to help them if they get lost or have to change their route.
- Yell "NO! I NEED HELP!" and run to a safe place to get help if they feel scared.
- Yell, pull away, hit and kick to escape from an attack.
- Be persistent in getting help.
- Find and use a telephone so they can call a trusted adult for help or 911 in an emergency.