

Crime Prevention for Children

Each year thousands of children are victimized by crime.

No matter what your age, sex or race or where you live and go to school, you too can become a victim of crime. Wherever you are, always remember to **Be Alert!**

Always **Be Aware** of what is happening around you. The following tips are important for crime prevention. Keeping these suggestions in mind and following them when necessary will reduce your chances of becoming a victim. **Safety On The Streets** While you're walking remember:

- Have your mom or dad, or both of them, walk your school route with you to make sure it is safe.
- When your mom or dad cannot walk you, walk with a friend. Two heads are better than one, especially if there's an emergency. Strangers usually pick on one person.
- Always stick to the same route when going and coming from school.
- Don't take short cuts.
- Be observant as you walk. Be aware of your surroundings. If you think you are being followed, you can cross the street.
- If you think you are in danger, yell "help" and run to the nearest store or back to school.
- If a stranger in a car asks you questions, don't get close to the car (you could get pulled in) and never get in it.
- Remember, a stranger is anyone you **and** your parents don't know or know well.
- Some adults can tell you what to do, such as a teacher or a police officer. But no adult can tell you what to do just because he or she is older than you. If you're ever in a situation that makes you feel uncomfortable in any way, you have the right to say **NO**, loud and clear.
- Don't tell anyone your name and address when you are out walking, and don't think that because someone knows your name that they know you, maybe he/she heard someone else call you by name.
- Establish a code or secret word that only you and your parents know.

WARNING: Wearing clothing with your name on the outside tells strangers who you are. **Safety At School**

- Do not wear expensive jewelry or clothing.
- Do not carry more money than you need.
- Place your money in a secure pocket.
- Do not stay alone in the hallways between classes.

Safety At Play

- Do not ride your bicycle in deserted areas. Ride in a group, if possible. Do not ride at night.
- Do not stay alone in a playground or recreational area. Play in groups and walk home in groups. Stay away from dark and wooded areas. Do not go into abandoned buildings.
- If something is wrong, scream and run to safety.
- If you leave your bicycle outside a store, house, etc., secure it with a good lock and chain.

Safety In Your Apartment Or Home

- Have your keys ready as you approach your door to enter.
- Do not attempt to enter your residence if you see a suspicious person in front of it or walking behind you. Go to a neighbor you trust.
- Make sure your door is always locked. If there is a knock at the door always acknowledge it.
- Do not open your door for strangers, no matter how friendly they seem. If they want to use your phone in an emergency, make the call for them.
- If you are alone in a house try to keep a radio or television turned on to give the impression that the residence is occupied.
- Never tell anyone at the door or on the phone that you are alone. Do not give out any information.