

People you know and those you don't..... SAFETY FIRST

Statistics show that most children are harmed by adults they already know. That's why it's important for you and your kids to know exactly what to do if your family is hurt or tricked by someone you may or may not know.

KIDS – If someone follows you on foot or in a car, stay away. You don't need to go near a car to talk to someone inside.

PARENTS – Have kids practice yelling and struggling. Tell them to yell, "This man is not my father!" or "This person is trying to take me away!"

KIDS – Use the buddy system if you're going somewhere – like to the playground – without an adult.

PARENTS – Remember that older children still need guidance about predators, especially as they gain more social freedom. Statistics show that teens are more likely to be abducted and exploited than other children.

KIDS – If someone is hurting you, whether you know them or not, tell your parent or another trusted adult. It's never okay to keep a secret, even if the person who's hurting you says you have to.

PARENTS – Make sure your kids know that they should never keep secrets from you no matter what. Even if a relative or friend is the one hurting them, they must let you know.

KIDS – Remember, not all adults that you don't know are bad, but you still don't know them, even if you see them every day, like the mailman or your bus driver.

PARENTS – Come up with "What if..." scenarios with your children. Ask them, "What if we got separated in the mall?" or "What if an adult you don't know came up and offered you candy?"

KIDS – Never get into a car with someone unless your parents have said it's okay.

PARENTS – Create a code word to use with your kids to use if another trusted adult has to pick them up or come to your house. Make sure it's something that no one else could easily figure out.

KIDS – Grown-ups should not be asking children for help, they should ask other adults. So if someone asks you for directions or to help them look for something, say no and get away from them.

PARENTS – Teach children that they can always say "NO" to an adult they don't know.

KIDS – If you're home alone, never open the door for anyone unless your parents said it's okay.

PARENTS – Set ground rules about what your child should and shouldn't do when home alone.