

Child Protection Tips

- Let your child know he or she can tell you anything and that you will always be supportive.
- Teach your child that no one, not even a teacher or a close relative, has the right to touch him or her in a way that feels uncomfortable. Let them know that it is okay to say no, get away, and tell a trusted adult.
- Do not force kids to kiss, hug, or sit on a grown-up's lap if they do not want to. This gives them control and teaches them that they always have the right to refuse.
- Tell your child to stay away from strangers who hang around playgrounds, public restrooms, and schools.
- Tell children never to accept rides or gifts from someone they or you don't know.
- Encourage your children to walk and play with friends rather than alone. Tell them to avoid places that could be dangerous such as vacant buildings, alleys, playgrounds, or parks with broken equipment and litter.
- Teach children to go to a police officer, store clerk, or security guard if lost in the mall, store, or on the street.
- Tell your child not to let anyone into the home without your permission and never to let a caller at the door or on the phone know that there is no adult at home. Kids can always say their parents are busy and take a message.
- Make sure your children are taking the safest routes to and from school, stores, and friends' houses. Walk the routes together and point out the places they could go for help.