

Ten Safety Tips to Help Parents Keep Children Safe

1. **Make Sure** children know their full names, address, telephone numbers and how to use the telephone.
2. **Be Sure** children know what to do in case of an emergency and how to reach you using a cell phone or pager number. Children should have a neighbor or trusted adult they may call if they're scared or there's an emergency.
3. **Review** the rules with your children about whose homes they may visit and discuss the boundaries of where they may and may not go in the neighborhood.
4. **Make Sure** children know to stay away from pools, creeks, or any body of water without adult supervision.
5. **Caution** children to keep the door locked and not to open the door or talk to anyone who comes to the door when they are home alone.
6. **Don't** drop your children off at malls, movies, video arcades or parks. These are not safe places for children to be alone. Make certain a responsible adult supervises your younger children at all times when they are outside and away from home.
7. **Teach** your children in whose vehicle they may ride. Children should be cautioned to never approach any vehicle, occupied or not, unless accompanied by a parent or other trusted adult.
8. **Be Sure** your children know their curfew and check in with you if they are going to be late. If children are playing outside after dark, make sure they wear reflective clothing and stay close to home.
9. **Choose** babysitters with care. Obtain references from family, friends, and neighbors. Many states now have registries for public access to check criminal history or sex-offender status. Observe the babysitter's interaction with your children, and ask your children how they feel about the babysitter.
10. **Check** out camp and other summer programs before enrolling your children. See if a background screening check is completed on the individuals working with the children. Make sure there will be adult supervision of your children at all times, and make sure you are made aware of all activities and field trips offered by the camp or program.

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