

SAFETY TIPS

Young children should be taught to:

- Never go into other people's houses without letting parents know where they are.
- Never get into anyone's car without a parent's permission.
- Never take gifts or food from strangers or anyone else without asking a parent first.
- Never play in deserted buildings or isolated areas.
- Say "NO!" to an adult when asked to do something they know is wrong or makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Never keep secrets from parents. Teach them to tell you if someone has asked them to keep a secret from you.
- Know how to dial 911 and explain an emergency.

Teens should:

- Tell you where they are at all times.
- Avoid shortcuts through empty parks, fields or alleys.
- Learn to recognize suspicious behavior and remember a description of the person or vehicle to give to the police.
- Feel that they can talk to you and call you to pick them up any time, any place.

Parents should:

- Avoid writing your child's name on clothing or toys. A child is less likely to fear someone who knows his or her name.
- Check all potential baby-sitters and older friends of your child.
- Always accompany young children to the bathroom in a public place.
- Always accompany your child when going door-to-door, such as collecting donations for fund raisers.
- Point out safe havens such as cashiers in stores, store security officers and other places or people children can go to if they need assistance or feel threatened.