

Emergency

911

Toronto Police Non-emergency

416-808-2222

Crime Stoppers

416-808-7260

416-808-8477 (TIPS)

1-800-222-TIPS

www.222tips.com

Kids Help Phone

24 hour help line for kids
on any issue

1-800-668-6868

www.kidshelphone.ca



COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION UNIT

40 COLLEGE STREET

TORONTO, ONTARIO

M5G 2J3

www.torontopolice.on.ca

SP 307-E (2011/12)

Toronto Police Service

Safety tips will help keep children safe.

Provide children with clear guidelines to help keep them safe. It is important that children feel safe in their community – educate them on safety without scaring them.

Talk to your children daily about what's going on in their lives (for example, school, friends). This will strengthen your relationship. Explain that they should not keep secrets from you.

Be sensitive to changes in your child's mood and behaviour. Any of these may indicate that your child has a problem or a worry.

Often children think that if they have done something wrong, or if they have broken a rule, that they cannot go to a parent. Make sure that your children are aware that they can come to you no matter what, and that you will listen.

Adults need to understand that children break rules and make mistakes – we all do; it's part of the learning process.

It is important that you always know where your children are, who they are with, when they are coming back, and what they are doing at all times. It's our job to keep them safe!

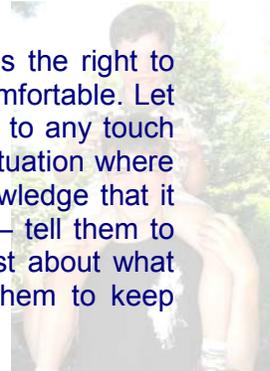


A Guide To Keeping Our Children Safe



TEACH YOUR CHILDREN:

- Their full name, address, area code and phone number, and also their parents' names.
- How to reach you at any time, or someone else they can call or go to for help (e.g., a trusted neighbour). Make a list of all important phone numbers, including police, the fire department, poison control center, your work and cell phone numbers, and the names and numbers of who they can call for help. Post this list near all your home phones.
- How to make a 911 emergency phone call from home and public phones.
- An escape plan, in case of fire or other emergencies, and how to work the door and window locks.
- To stay away from wooded areas, overgrown shrubbery, abandoned buildings, poorly lit areas, laneways, vacant lots, creeks and rivers. Take a walking tour of your neighbourhood. Know the route your child takes to school, to friends' houses, etc. Make sure your child knows not to take shortcuts through alleys and parking lots. Remember, at any age it is always safer to walk with a buddy.
- Never to go into a public washroom by themselves – a responsible caregiver should always accompany children.
- How to use the bus/subway when they are ready. Do public transit training that includes where the bus stop is, the right bus to take, and how to read the direction signs in the subway station.
- That no one, not even someone they know, has the right to touch them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable. Let them know that they have the right to say "**NO**" to any touch that makes them feel uncomfortable or in any situation where they are feeling threatened or in danger. Acknowledge that it might be too scary to say "no" and that's okay – tell them to trust their feelings, and to tell an adult they trust about what happened, even if they couldn't say no. Tell them to keep telling, until they get the help they need.



TELL YOUR CHILDREN:

- To never accept anything from anyone unless they have permission from a parent or the person looking after them.
- Not to open the doors for anyone unless a parent is aware of the visit.
- When they are allowed to answer the phone (e.g., if the call display shows it is a parent, sibling, grandparent or neighbour) and what they should say.
- To stay calm if they become lost, and to find help from a store clerk, police officer or a mother with children, and to never go into a parking lot alone.
- To check in regularly with a parent or caregiver when they are not at home. If they want to change their after-school plans, or go from one place to another (e.g., from one friend's house to someone else's house), they are to call you **first**. Make sure your children understand to check in with you when they arrive at their destination.
- That you always need to know where they are going, including the address and telephone number.
- Never to get into anyone's car or go anywhere with anyone – even with someone they know, unless a parent or caregiver has given permission.
- To check in with you or the caregiver when they get home. Establish rules for having friends over or going to someone else's house. Wherever your children go, ask about supervision. Be sure that you know how to reach your children at any time.
- That if they are ever in a situation where they feel uncomfortable or unsafe, and want to be picked up right away, they can **always** call you, no matter what. Focus on the fact that they made the right choice by calling you, and that you hope if they are asked to go again, they will not go – tell them that if there is peer pressure to go, it's okay to make an excuse to friends for why they can't (e.g., they have to babysit younger siblings, there is a family gathering they must attend).

