

New Neighborhood Safety Tips

Moving to a new community may be an exciting and challenging time for families. It is vital to communicate with your children about their new home and neighborhood and reassure them about the changes in their lives. It is also important to pay careful attention to their feelings about the move and encourage them to share their thoughts with you.

- 1 Make certain your children know their full names, new address, and telephone numbers as soon as possible.
- 2 Make a point of meeting your neighbors and introducing them to your children while you are with them.
- 3 Make a list of contact and emergency telephone numbers as soon as possible after you move. Include **TRUSTED ADULTS** your children may contact if they need assistance and you are unavailable. In the event your children may be lost or injured, make sure they carry a contact card with your name and telephone numbers such as work and cellular. This card should be hidden from plain view.
- 4 Take your children on a walking tour of the neighborhood, and determine what supervision they need when outside. Teach them
 - Surrounding streets and main roads by name and landmarks
 - To stay on main roads and never take shortcuts
 - Landmarks and safe places they may go to for assistance if they need help
- 5 Make a map with your children of acceptable routes to and from school, the playground, store, and any other locations they are allowed to visit. Encourage them to carry the map at all times to use if they need help finding their way.
- 6 Remind your children they must **CHECK FIRST** with you before they open the door for anyone or go anywhere.
- 7 Remind your children of these safety rules when they are home alone.
 - Keep the doors and windows locked
 - Never open the door for or talk to anyone who calls or comes to the home unless the person is a trusted family friend or relative your children feel comfortable talking to or being alone with and whose visit has been pre-approved by you
- 8 Caution your children to never give out personal information to anyone or tell anyone they are home alone.
- 9 Teach your children to trust their feelings and **TELL** you or another trusted adult if anyone makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused in any way.
- 10 Practice these safety rules with your children to make certain they really know and understand them. Make outings around the new neighborhood “teachable moments” and a chance to put their skills to the test.

Detach and share the bookmark below with your kids!

Our Family's New Neighborhood Safety Rules

- We know our new address, telephone numbers, and the name and location of our school.
- We take a friend when we walk to school, ride the bus, or play outside, and when taking the bus we know the right bus number and bus stop.
- We know our emergency telephone numbers and who to contact when needing help.
- We have met our new neighbors and will always **CHECK FIRST** before going anywhere with anyone.
- We will talk if anything bothers us or makes us feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.
- We have a plan for staying as safe as possible when at home and going out. We practice that plan everyday.

1-800-THE-LOST®
(1-800-843-5678)
www.missingkids.com

This project was supported by Grant No. 2007-MC-CX-K001 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® and 1-800-THE-LOST® are registered service marks of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. NCMEC Order #22.

Copyright © 1998, 2004, and 2007 National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). All rights reserved.