

## Keeping children safe... Suggestions for parents

- Teach your child how to dial 0 or 911 for help.
- Teach your child not to open the door to strangers or give information on the phone.
- Only mark your child's name on the inside of clothing or other items.
- Keep an updated list of names, phone numbers and addresses of your child's friends.
- Have a secret family password. Ensure your child knows not to go with or assist anyone unless they give the password.
- Together, choose a safe route to school and tell your child to take the same route to school and home every day and not to use shortcuts.
- Make your child aware of safe places on the route; e.g. friend's houses, businesses.
- Ensure the places your child plays are safe and someone is there to watch them.
- Never let your child go unattended to public washrooms.
- If your child says he/she is going to a friend's house, make it a rule to verify with the friend's parents that your child is visiting and will be supervised.
- Explain to your child that strangers can drive any type of vehicle, can be male or female, can be young or old and can look shabby or be well dressed.



- Instruct your child to stay a safe distance from anyone who stops to talk to them. Your child should not be close enough to the person that he/she could be grabbed, pushed or pulled into a vehicle.
- Keep up-to-date identification information about your child - a recent colour photograph, height, weight, medical and dental history, fingerprints.
- Insist that your child tell you about anything that happens which makes him/her feel uncomfortable. Teach your child to trust his/her instincts.
- Tell your child it is not rude to ignore an adult asking for directions or help.
- If your child is approached by a stranger, ensure that police are called and that his/her school administrator is notified immediately