

BE STREET SMART

Explain to your children how to safely walk to and from school:

- Always walk with a friend - there is safety in numbers. Strangers usually target children who are by themselves.
- If you think you are in danger, or if you are being followed, yell and run into the nearest store, house or back to school. Tell an adult what happened.
- Have your mom or dad or both of them walk your school route with you to make sure it is completely safe.
- Always stick to the same, safe route going to and from school. Don't take shortcuts and never hitchhike.

RULES FOR ONLINE SAFETY:

- Talk with your children in order to set up rules for going online. Decide upon the time of day, time limit, and appropriate areas for them to visit.
- Make sure your children NEVER give out personal information such as their address, phone number, or name and location of their school.
- Children should NEVER agree to meet an online "friend" without first checking with a parent. After both parents agree, schedule the meeting in a public place and make sure a parent accompanies them.
- Make sure your children NEVER send a person a picture of themselves or anything else without first asking permission.

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY:

Explain to your children that if someone is hurt or very sick, there is a car accident or a fire, call 9-1-1 as soon as possible. Your children need to know that if they get lost, go to a pay phone and dial 9-1-1 to get help. This is a free call from a pay phone.

For additional resources contact The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:

www.missingkids.com



Santa Rosa Police Department
965 Sonoma Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Emergency: 9-1-1
Non-Emergency: 707-528-5222
Main Phone: 707-543-3600

SANTA ROSA POLICE DEPARTMENT

To protect and to serve

CHILD SAFETY



Administration: 707-543-3550

Property Crime: 707-543-3575

Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault:
707-543-3595

Violence Crime: 707-543-3590

Gang Crime: 707-543-3670

Website: www.santarosapd.com

CHILD SAFETY INFORMATION

PARENTS,

Do your children know about strangers? Do they know how to protect themselves from kidnapping and other crimes? Children need guidance on making safe choices and decisions. Take a minute to go over the following safety tips with your children. They could prevent your children from becoming victims of crime. It is important you give them examples they will understand. Role play in your home, neighborhood, and their schools. Pose "What if?" scenarios and safely guide your children through the scenario. Make sure your children understand that their safety is important to you, and use the following points to encourage discussion about this issue.

WHO IS A STRANGER?

A stranger is someone your children do not know. Children often conjure up the image of a "scary monster" when parents mention the word "stranger". Explain that a stranger may look, act and dress nicely, or even wear a uniform.

Children may be in a situation that requires interaction with a stranger, and this may be confusing. For example, if a child gets lost in a grocery store, the child should immediately go to the checkout counter or security office even though that may mean talking to a stranger. Instruct your children not to wander around looking for you. They should seek help from someone who works in the store.

TELL YOUR CHILD TO FOLLOW THESE RULES ABOUT STRANGERS

- Stay away from a stranger who asks for assistance. Strangers should never ask children for directions or for help with something they can do themselves, such as finding a lost puppy or kitten.
- Never take anything like candy, ice cream or money from a stranger.
- Never take a ride from a stranger, even if the stranger says your mother needs you or uses some other excuse.
- If a stranger asks for directions, stay away. Strangers shouldn't ask children for help.
- Never give your name or address to a stranger.
- If a stranger in a car bothers you, turn and run in the opposite direction.
- If a stranger tries to follow you on foot or tries to grab you, RUN AWAY, SCREAM and TELL your parents or a trusted adult friend. A dangerous stranger doesn't want to be the center of attention.

SAFETY AT HOME

Instruct your children on how to safely answer the door:

- Never open the door to a stranger.
- If a stranger knocks on the door or rings the doorbell, tell your children to look out the peep hole or call out "who's there?" If it's for you, your children should tell the visitor to wait, and leave the door locked until you are available. If you are not at home, children should tell the visitor that you are busy and to please come back later. Your children can take a message, but they should NEVER open the door.
- If the visitor won't go away, and your children are scared, tell them to call 9-1-1.
- Never leave the yard or play area without permission from a parent or the adult in charge.

Instruct your children on how to safely answer the telephone:

- When answering the telephone, your children should not give out any information. If the caller asks "who's this?", instruct your children to ask who the caller is and whom he or she called.
- If your children are alone, they should never tell anyone they are alone. Instruct your children to tell the caller the person can't come to the telephone and they will write down a message.
- If your children feel uncomfortable or get scared by anything the caller says, tell them to hang up and make sure they tell you immediately about any and all telephone calls.
- If you have an answering machine, let it answer the telephone if your children are home alone.