



A message from

Speaker of the Assembly
Carl E. Heastie

Dear Parent,

We would do everything and anything to protect our children from harm. But we can't always be present, making it that much more important to teach them how to stay safe. That's why I encourage you to share these safety tips with your children.

If I can be of further assistance in this or any other matter, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Carl E. Heastie
Member of Assembly

District Office:
250 Broadway, Suite 2301
New York, NY 10007
212-312-1400

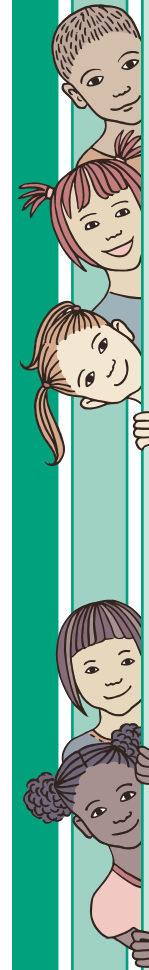
Albany Office:
Room 932, LOB
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-3791

speaker@nyassembly.gov
www.nyassembly.gov

Updated 11/21

PRSR STD,
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Albany, NY
Permit No. 75

New York State Assembly, Albany, NY 12248



Playing it Safe

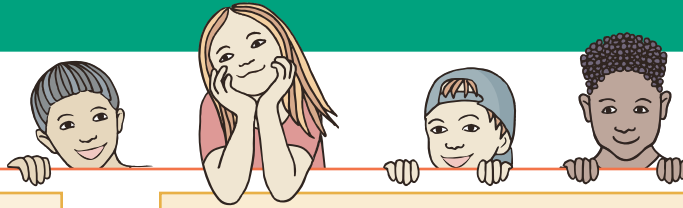
Tips for keeping children safe



Courtesy of
Speaker of the Assembly
Carl E. Heastie

Safety Tips

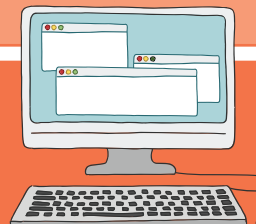
Children should:



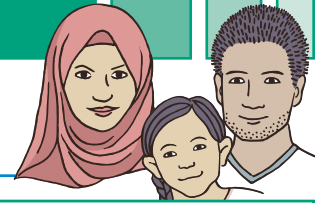
- ✓ Know their full name, address and phone number.
- ✓ Know how, when and why to dial 911.
- ✓ Know that a stranger is someone they and you don't know very well.
- ✓ Never go into anyone's home without your permission. Children should know whose homes they're allowed to enter.
- ✓ Know that if they get lost while shopping, to go to the nearest checkout counter and ask the clerk for assistance rather than look for you. They should never go to the parking lot.
- ✓ Walk and play with others. A child is most vulnerable when alone. If your child walks to school, have him/her walk with other children.
- ✓ Never get into a car without your permission. Warn your children that someone may try to lure them into a car by saying you said to pick them up. Tell them never to obey such instructions. Have a code word that only you and your child know.
- ✓ Know that adults don't usually ask children for directions. If someone stops a car asking for directions, the child shouldn't go near it.
- ✓ Know that if someone is following them, they should go to a public place where there are other people, to a neighbor's home or into a store and ask for help. They should not try to hide.
- ✓ Know that no one has the right to touch them or make them feel uncomfortable. They have the right to say no.

- ✓ Never tell anyone over the phone they are home alone. Let voicemail screen calls.
- ✓ Never answer the door when they're home alone. Children should call 911 or another emergency contact person, such as a neighbor, if a person won't leave the door.
- ✓ Know to tell you if any adult asks them to keep a "secret."
- ✓ Tell you if someone offers them gifts or money or wants to take their picture.
- ✓ Know to yell "HELP" and not just scream if they're in danger. It's OK to fight back and do anything to get an attacker to let go.
- ✓ If a door or window is unlocked or broken upon coming home alone, go to a neighbor's home and call 911.
- ✓ Always walk against traffic in order to be aware if someone stops a car near them. Never take shortcuts through deserted areas like an empty lot, an alley or the woods.

Additional resources:
www.netsmartz.org
www.kidsmartz.org
www.missingkids.org



Parents should:



- ▶ Know your children's friends.
- ▶ Never leave children unattended, and never leave children in a car.
- ▶ Be involved in your children's activities.
- ▶ Listen when your child tells you he/she doesn't want to be with someone. There may be a reason.
- ▶ Become familiar with online safety rules. Visit www.NetSmartz.org for tips.
- ▶ Have your child's fingerprints taken.
- ▶ Take a photograph of your child each year (four times a year for children under the age of 2).
- ▶ Be sensitive to changes in your child's behavior or attitude. Encourage open communication.
- ▶ Have a set plan with your child outlining what he/she should do if you become separated away from home.
- ▶ Make a game of reading license plate numbers and remembering their colors. This will help children recognize the numbers and letters on license plates and their state origin.
- ▶ Be sure your children's day care center or school won't release your children to anyone but you or people you designate. Instruct the schools to call you if your children are absent.