

# CHILD FIND OF AMERICA'S BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

## KIDS

### Use *The Buddy System*

- Walk with friends, siblings, or neighbors
- Stick to planned route, stay in well lit areas, and avoid shortcuts and isolated areas

### Avoid Strangers (someone you don't know or don't know well, even someone you see every day)

- Do not approach any cars or accept money or gifts from strangers
- Ignore strangers asking children for help, such as finding a lost pet and immediately go home or to a safe place
- If someone tries to take you somewhere, scream "This is not my Mom/Dad!" and start kicking and screaming
- If you are being followed on foot, get away from that person as quickly as possible
- If you are being followed by a car, turn around, go in the other direction, and get help from a trusted adult

### Know Important Phone Numbers

- Know parents work, cell and home phone numbers
- Know your address

### When Home Alone

- Check in with parents upon arriving home
- Always lock the door and stay inside unless there is an emergency such as a fire, in which case you should get out immediately and go to a trusted neighbor's house
- Do not answer the door
- Call 911 if you sense danger

## PARENTS/GUARDIANS

### Getting There Safely

- Walk children to school or bus stop and wait with them if they are alone
- If you are unable to accompany children to school, plan and walk the route with them beforehand, noting any safe houses or businesses
- If driving, drop off and pick up children as close to the school building as possible
- Arrange for a trusted adult to pick up your children if you are unable to

### Update Contact Information

- Make sure current and accurate emergency contact information is on file at your children's school
- Be sure your children know your home, work and cell phone numbers and how to dial "911" for help
- Do not purchase clothing or supplies with your children's name on them

### Working Parents

- Notify trusted neighbors if you are going to be late getting home from work
- Set specific rules for your children to follow while alone
- Consider getting your children a prepaid cell phone for emergencies

