

Stranger Abduction: 10 Ways to Reduce the Risks

1. Keep your child in sight at all times. Most abductions occur within a few blocks of home, even on their own front yard, when the child is left alone and unsupervised.
2. Do not purchase clothing or school supplies with your child's name on them. Knowing your child's name is a way for an abductor to establish a rapport with a child.
3. Teach children that a stranger is someone they don't know or don't know well. A stranger can be someone they see everyday at school or in the neighborhood, but they don't necessarily know that person.
4. Know the people you hire and allow to enter your home, including plumbers, carpenters, repairmen, cleaners, and especially babysitters.
5. Encourage your child to take a buddy when walking in the neighborhood, in a store, or to and from school.
6. Adults don't ask children for directions or help. Teach your child that if someone asks for directions or help looking for a pet, to ignore the person and immediately go home or to a safe place.
7. Tell your child about the abduction problem in a calm, simple way.
8. Teach your child that is okay to run away or scream if someone is making them do something they don't want to do. They should immediately tell a trusted adult what happened.
9. Teach your child his or her full name, address, telephone number (including area code) and how to dial "911" for help.
10. Never leave your child alone in a car or unattended in a supermarket or shopping mall. Teach your child to go to the nearest store clerk for help if you get separated.



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