

Helpful Principles To Keep Your Children Safe

- Make children aware of vulnerable situations in a matter-of-fact way, rather than making them fearful. Children will take their lead from your reaction as a parent so remaining calm increases their feeling of safety and well-being.
- Familiarize children with your community and neighbourhood.
- Walk young children through their neighbourhood and talk about possible dangers: parks, unlit and wooded areas, vacant lots, and cars. Decide on a route to be used to and from school.
- Accompany young children to schools, playgrounds, and community recreation centres.
- Teach children to use all their senses – teach them to be alert!
- Discuss with children whom they can trust.
- Warn children. Often parents are concerned that warning children may make them distrustful of all adults. This can be avoided if children are taught that respect is earned – even by adults. Children should know that it's okay to question an adult, even an adult close to them, who asks them to do something that is inappropriate or makes them uncomfortable.
- Use examples from television and storybooks to discuss improper behaviours people use to get what they want – behaviours like manipulation, bribes, threats, and force.
- Ask school, sport, community, camping and faith organizations about their personnel-screening policies and procedures.
- Know the people who have contact with your children: friends and their parents, coaches, teachers, faith advisors, and neighbours.
- Be aware at all times of where your children are and with whom.
- Develop, review and practice Personal Safety Rules:
 1. **Talk:** Say “NO!”
 2. **Walk:** Get away.
 3. **Squawk:** Tell someone you trust.
Keep telling until someone helps you.
- Create a set of check-ins, emergency plans, and family codes.

A helpful brochure to assist parents with further safety principles **“Working Together to Keep our Children Safe”** is available on the School District website www.sd38.bc.ca under Parent and Community Info.