

TIPS FOR PARENTS: PREVENTING ABDUCTION



Teaching children about abduction safety is important, but the ultimate responsibility lies with trusted adults. Use the tips below to help you learn more about abduction and how to better protect your child.

LEARN THE FACTS

Many abduction attempts:¹

- Involve a suspect driving a vehicle.
- Occur when the child is traveling to or away from school.
- Occur between 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- Involve girls and children between the ages of 10 -14.

The top five methods used during abduction attempts are:²

1. Offering a ride.
2. Offering candy or sweets.
3. Asking questions.
4. Offering money.
5. Offering, looking for or showing an animal.

TAKE ACTION

- Know the routes your children take, especially to and from school. Practice walking the routes with them so you can point out places they should avoid or where they can go for help.
- Talk to your child's school or day care facility about its pickup policy. Be clear that no one should pick up your child without your permission. Ask to be contacted immediately if someone else tries to pick up your child.
- Use role-playing scenarios to help children learn how to recognize and respond to risky situations. For example, have children practice yelling, kicking, pulling away or otherwise attracting attention when grabbed or approached by someone they do not know.
- Teach your child about the methods would-be abductors use. Have your child practice responding to the tricks by saying "no," walking away and telling a trusted adult immediately.
- Prepare children to act when you are not with them. They should know their full names, home addresses and telephone numbers, and how to dial 911.
- Keep a child identification kit, which includes a recent color photo of your child and descriptive details such as age, height and weight. For more information about creating a kit visit www.missingkids.com/ChildID.



If your child is missing, contact your local law-enforcement agency immediately. Then make a report to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® at **1-800-THE-LOST® (1-800-843-5678)**.

¹Based on an analysis by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® of more than 9,000 abduction attempts occurring between Feb. 1, 2005, and Jan. 31, 2014. For more information visit www.missingkids.com/AttemptedAbductions.

²Ibid.

A program of the



KidSmartz.org

COPYRIGHT © 2014 NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Sponsored by



TIPS FOR PARENTS: GOING OUT CHECKLIST



Heading out for some family fun at an amusement park, movie theater, mall or any other public place? Use this checklist to make your outing safer.



REVIEW THE KIDSMARTZ RULES

Make sure your children understand the basic rules of safety – check first before going anywhere; take a friend everywhere you go; tell people “NO” if they try to touch or hurt you; and tell a trusted adult if anyone makes you feel sad, scared or confused.



PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES

Look at a map of the facilities and locate information booths or customer service centers. Carry recent pictures of your children in case they get lost. You can even take a picture of them on your cellphone just before leaving.



CHARGE YOUR CELLPHONE

Check that your cellphone is charged and your children have the number memorized. Consider giving older children a cellphone of their own so you can reach them more easily.



PAY ATTENTION TO CLOTHING

Remember what your children are wearing so you can describe their clothing to staff members in case they are lost. Tip: If your children are wearing bright colors, they will be easier to spot in crowds.



IDENTIFY ADULTS WHO CAN HELP

Teach younger children to look for people like security officers, store employees or park staff members who can help them look for you in case you are separated.



CHOOSE A MEETING SPOT

Instruct older children to go directly to a designated spot, like a store or an information booth, to meet you. They should never leave or go to the parking lot to try and find you.



PLAN FOR BATHROOM BREAKS

You should always go with younger children to the restroom. Make sure older children take a friend; it's safer than going alone.



A program of the



KidSmartz.org

COPYRIGHT © 2014 NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Sponsored by

