

KNOW THE RULES...

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS

to teach children

1. Always **CHECK FIRST** with your parents, guardians, or the trusted adult in charge before you go anywhere or do anything. Be sure to **CHECK IN** regularly with your parents, guardians, or a trusted adult when you're not with them.
2. Always **TAKE A FRIEND** with you when playing or going anywhere. It's safer and more fun.
3. Don't be tricked by people who offer you special treats or gifts. Never accept anything from anyone without your parents' or guardians' permission.
4. Stay **SAFER** when you're home alone by keeping the door locked; not opening the door for or talking to anyone who stops by unless the person is a trusted family friend or relative, you feel comfortable being alone with that person, and the visit has been preapproved by your parents or guardians; and never telling anyone who calls that you're home by yourself. If your parent or guardian cannot be reached, have a neighbor or other trusted adult you are able to call if you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused or there's an emergency.
5. Never go into a public restroom by yourself.
6. Never go alone to malls, movies, parks, or video arcades. Take a friend with you, and always **CHECK FIRST** with your parents or guardians to make sure it's okay.
7. Don't panic if you feel lost. Identify the safest place to go or person to ask for help in reuniting you with your parents or guardians. Safe helpers could be a uniformed law-enforcement or security officer, store salesperson with a nametag, person with a nametag who is working at the information booth, or mother with children. Never search for your parents or guardians on your own, and never go with anyone who is trying to reunite you with them.
8. Be careful when you play. Stay away from pools, canals, and other bodies of water unless you are with a trusted adult. Don't play near busy streets or deserted areas, and never take shortcuts unless you have your parents' or guardians' permission.
9. Don't wear clothes or carry items with your name on the outside, and don't be confused just because a person you don't know calls out your name.
10. Don't get into a vehicle or go near a vehicle with anyone in it unless you are with your parents, guardians, or a trusted adult. Never take a ride from anyone without **CHECKING FIRST** with your parents or guardians.
11. Be careful playing or riding your bicycle as it gets dark. Sometimes it is difficult for people driving to see you. Wear reflectors and protective clothing if your parents or guardians say you may play outside after dark.
12. Don't be afraid to say **NO** and **GET AWAY** from any situation making you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. **TRUST YOUR FEELINGS**, and be sure to **TELL** a trusted adult if anything happens to make you feel this way. And, it's never too late to tell a trusted adult what happened.

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OJJDP Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention
Office of Justice Programs • U.S. Department of Justice

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Have a safe and fun summer!