

STREET SMART KIDS

Taken from Mr. Manoli's 'Street Safe Kids' manual: (514) 328-4683; www.manoli.ca

1. Talk to your child about safe strangers and tricky people

- Looks do not matter, behaviour is what counts
- Teach children about the various lures used by tricky people
- Child should know that tricky people are nice at first
- Start your child's sexual education early – private parts, etc.



2. Cut the dialogue

- Say 'No!' and walk or run away
- Parents must give child the authority to say 'No!' and be rude
- Child seeks help from an adult not the other way around

3. Safe distance

- More than one arms length away. Don't allow person to get too close
- Stay away from cars and locations where you are not seen by others
- Don't accept anything from anyone, not even items they dropped
- When getting away, try to place items between you and tricky person (parked cars, etc.)

4. Listen to your intuition

- Discuss funny feelings (or inner little voice) and how they help you stay safe
- Act on your feelings - You don't have to be 100% sure that something is wrong
- Trust your instinct and speak up
- Child must do whatever it takes to be safe
- They must know that as a parent you are behind them & will respect their feelings

5. Child can say 'No!'

- Teach your child that they can say 'No!' to an adult in a clear, forceful voice
- Encourage assertive body language when talking
- Child should show teeth and try to look like a witch when reacting to tricky person

6. My body's mine...Child should know

- The difference between 'good' and 'bad' touches
- Correct names of private body parts
- That there are limits to physical affection: i.e. touching, kissing, hugging, tickling, etc.
- To tell someone if they wont stop touching them
- That it's never too late to tell or they might not be able to tell right away
- That you will not be mad at them if something like that took place
- That you will always love them and that you will deal with the adult at fault

7. There should be no touching secrets in your family

- Sexual abuse cannot take place without secrets
- Secrets strengthen the adult's power and control over child
- Secrets isolate the child from others
- Secrets help continue the physical abuse
- Pedophiles twist the concept of secrecy, making the child feel guilty
- Secrets are wrong when there is shame, pain or embarrassment

8. Screaming

- Scream 'Fire!' '9-1-1!' 'This is not my dad!'
- Scream from diaphragm not the throat – look like a witch when screaming
- Shouldn't be embarrassed to yell
- Scream, drop what you are holding and run screaming

9. Have a lost and found plan

- Does your child know what to do if mommy gets lost (not if they get lost) ?
- Agree before hand where to meet if separated
- Parents should know what to do if their child goes missing
- Parents should make a mental note of what their child is wearing daily
- Inform your child that you will always look for them, never threaten to abandon them
- Child should know how to locate a safe stranger
- Child should know that they are to approach stranger and not the other way around
- Child should know what information to give when seeking help
- Child should know what response they are to expect from person offering help
- Parents should carry up to date picture ID of child
- Child should distinguish difference between police officers, security guards, etc.

10. Child should know how to use various phones

- Child should know they can dial 9-1-1 and '0' for emergency help
- Child should know that 25 cents is not required for public phones emergency calls
- Have emergency numbers written next to residential phone for reference
- When calling for help and danger approaches, child should drop phone and run
- Child should know how to answer the phone when home alone (personal info. given)
- Child should know how to filter calls using the answering machine

11. Establish a buddy system

- Stress the importance of staying together when with friends
- Be conscious that being with a buddy is not the ultimate protection

12. Child shouldn't be embarrassed to run

- Run right away – put your knees in the breeze
- Drop the books or back pack prior to running
- Inform your child that you wont get mad at them for dropping books or backpack
- They must run to the nearest public place

13. If dragged away, drop to the floor, scream, bite, bicycle kick

14. Establish school pick up policy & call back school program

15. Establish an 'Ask first' policy before child goes anywhere

16. Don't place child's name on the outside of their personal items

17. Child should know what to do when home alone

18. Parents should know the people in their child's world

19. Child should know to keep telling till someone does something about it

20. You as a parent are responsible to teach your child safety issues