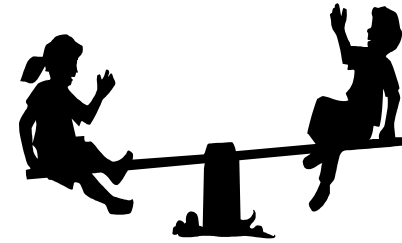


REMINDERS:

- ◆ ALWAYS USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE ALONE, ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL, PLAYGROUND OR TO A FRIEND. There IS safety in numbers.
- ◆ CHILDREN SHOULD BE PART OF THE HOME SECURITY PLAN. HAVE AN EVACUATION PLAN, PRACTICE THE PLAN. GIVE YOUR CHILDREN A JOB TO DO AFTER THEY REACH A SAFE PLACE.
- ◆ LOCK DOORS AND WINDOWS, EVEN SECOND STORY WINDOWS, EVEN WHEN IT IS HOT. CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE PARTIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS SAFETY SOLUTION.
- ◆ GIVE YOUR CHILDREN A MEANS OF REACHING HELP; IT COULD BE YOU VIA CELL PHONE, PAGER, TELEPHONE OR A TRUSTED NEIGHBOR OR FRIEND.
- ◆ HAVE A BACK-UP PLAN FOR THE CHILDREN IF YOU ARE NOT HOME WHEN THEY ARRIVE HOME FROM SCHOOL. DO NOT LEAVE THEM TO THEIR OWN DESIGNS.
- ◆ CAREFULLY CONSIDER IF YOUR CHILD IS REALLY READY TO BABYSIT OR HOUSESIT FOR THE NEIGHBORS. THIS IS AN EXTREMELY FREIGHTENING SITUATION FOR CHILDREN NOT QUITE MATURE ENOUGH FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY.

CRIME PREVENTION PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE ON:

- ◆ PERSONAL SAFETY
- ◆ HOMELAND SECURITY
- ◆ HOME AND PROPERTY SECURITY
- ◆ INTERNET SECURITY
- ◆ IDENTITY THEFT
- ◆ COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION
- ◆ AUTOMOBILE SAFETY
- ◆ TRAVEL SAFETY
- ◆ INTERNET SECURITY/TELEPHONE/CELL PHONE SECURITY
- ◆ CHILD SAFETY
- ◆ DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



*To schedule presentations contact:
Pierce County Sheriff's Department*

253-798-3624



BE AWARE and KNOW WHAT TO DO



HAVE A PLAN...

As in all personal safety and crime prevention, the key to safety is awareness and a plan!

Awareness is simply knowing where you are, who is there with you and who is near-by. When you have this information, you can implement the plan or family rules for the circumstances.

Establishing a system of “family rules” about personal safety is a good way to teach children to identify safe and non-safe circumstances. Since you probably already have rules about bedtime, TV watching, chores, homework, personal hygiene, etc. it is easy to add rules about personal/family safety without generating excessive fear.

We have listed several basic suggestions, as you and your children become more aware, you will add rules that apply to your personal situation.

By adopting rules about personal safety, parents can teach good habits through reinforcement, repetition, and through their own actions.

INSIDE RULES

- ◆ Children should know their complete home address, telephone number (including area code) and parents first and last names. Practice dialing and talking on the phone with younger children.
- ◆ If children are old enough to answer the phone, they should also know how to call 9-1-1. Practice with the receiver button taped down. Emphasize the importance of not calling unless there is an emergency!
- ◆ Establish a script for children when they answer the phone. If the adults are absent, what do you want them to say? Again, practice using different scenarios. Do not have them make excuses, it sounds phony and the caller will know they are home alone.
- ◆ Teach your children not to disclose “personal information” about the family or themselves. Explain what you mean by personal information, i.e., a name, name of a school, their age, etc.) Explain why it is important to the family to not have it disclosed to strangers.
- ◆ Establish an identifier for a stranger. One way of identifying a stranger to a child is to say, “it is someone who has never had dinner in our house”.
- ◆ It is OK, to not answer the phone. If you want to be able to call them, work out a code, such as three rings, hang up and call again, or have them call you.
- ◆ Children are old enough to answer the door when they are old enough to check the identity of the person outside WITHOUT opening the door.

OUTSIDE RULES

- ◆ Establish a system of accountability. Learn the full names of your kids’ friends, their parents’ names, addresses and phone numbers. Check to verify the accuracy of the information.
- ◆ When your child is at a friend’s home, who else is present? Parents? Older kids? Other neighbors? No one?
- ◆ Know your child’s routes to and from school, playmates, errands, and ball games. NO SHORT-CUTS! You will know where to begin looking for them should the need arise.
- ◆ Children should be taught to NEVER go anywhere without parental permission. This includes updating parents when plans change.
- ◆ Teach children what to do if they are bothered or followed at the playground, walking to a friends’ home, school or store...where do they go? Walk the route with your child, look for safe places. Practice various scenarios.
- ◆ Children’s best defenses are their voices and their legs! Teach them to run away from someone who is bothering them and yell to attract attention.
- ◆ Another defense is a child’s innate instinct of safety. Teach them to listen to that funny feeling and to take positive action.
- ◆ Teach children to stay away from automobiles that may stop to ask for directions. Show them what to do if a car follows them or if someone gets out.
- ◆ Practice the “lost puppy” story. Role play with your children. Even ask friends to play a role. Use various “what ifs” and challenge the child to come up with innovative solutions, just as you do when preparing your safety plan. The more a plan is DISCUSSED AND THOUGHT ABOUT, the shorter the reaction time to implementation during a crisis.