



Tips To Keep Your Child Safe

1. Never leave your child alone. If your child is left home alone, teach them not to answer the door or tell anyone on the telephone they are alone.
2. Keep your doors and windows locked at all times, even if you are leaving for a moment.
3. Call home if there is a change in your plans or schedule. Teach your child to call home or ask a grown up to call if there is a change in school plans or schedule. *Teach your child your phone number and how to call home.*
4. Teach your child to protect themselves in an emergency. Teach them to call for “help” by dialing 911 or O.
5. Make sure your child's school/daycare will not release him/her to anyone but you or another designated person.
6. Always have your child play in groups or walk with friends.
7. If your child becomes separated from you in a public place, teach them to seek help from someone in charge. Teach your child to never look for a way home or return to the car by themselves.
8. Teach your child “*stranger danger*”. Explain to your child to never talk, walk, take food, or take a ride with someone they don't know. Tell your child to report suspicious people right away to a parent, teacher, neighbor, or a policeman.
9. **Make a copy of your child's fingerprints.** Copy your child's medical and dental records and keep them together with their fingerprints and regularly updated photograph.
10. Keep a postcard, addressed to you and stamped, in your child's pocket. As soon as your child is capable of writing, teach him or her to print their location on it and mail it.
11. Assure your child that if you are separated from them, you will never stop looking for them.
12. If you are ever separated from your child, *report immediately to the police.*

Source: *Washington State Crime Prevention Association, 2010*