

# Going To and From School More Safely



Millions of kids ride a bike, take the bus or walk to school every day. Help get them to and from school more safely by following this checklist.

- Review the four rules of personal safety with your children. Remind them to:
  - Check first with you or the adult in charge before going anywhere, helping anyone, accepting anything or getting into a car.
  - Take a friend when going places or playing outside.
  - Tell people “NO” if they try to touch you or hurt you. It’s OK for you to stand up for yourself.
  - Tell a trusted adult if anything makes you feel sad, scared or confused.
- Walk the route to and from school with them pointing out landmarks and safe places to go if they need help. Tell them not to take shortcuts and to stay in well-lit areas.
- If your younger children take the bus, wait with them or make sure they’re supervised by someone you trust at the bus stop.
- Teach your children to recognize the tricks someone may use to abduct them such as asking for help or offering them a ride. Tell them to never approach a car without getting your permission first.
- Encourage your children to kick, scream and make a scene if anyone tries to take them.
- Instruct your children to get away as quickly as possible if someone is following them. If they are being followed by someone in a car, teach them to walk in the opposite direction from the one in which the car is driving.
- Be sure your children’s school has up-to-date emergency contact information. Learn about their pick-up procedures so only those you’ve authorized can pick up your children.
- Make sure your children know how to contact you in case of an emergency.



For more information about child safety, visit [MissingKids.com](http://MissingKids.com)



# 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:<sup>1</sup>

- 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:<sup>2</sup>

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](http://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)**.

<sup>1</sup>Based 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](http://www.missingkids.com/AttemptedAbductions).

<sup>2</sup>*ibid.*

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