

APEX POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Protecting our Children

Providing a safe environment for our children goes far beyond the doors of our homes. It requires us to prepare them to be safe community members; whether it's while they are walking to school, playing with friends in the front yard, using computers connected to the Internet or visiting the mall with friends. These safety tips will help you in preparing your children to have a prevention mindset and tools to ensure their safety.



Getting to know you

Get to know your child's friends and their parents. Always have an up-to-date phone and address list of their friends. Identify neighbors that you feel comfortable with your child going to in the case of an emergency. Open a dialog with your teenagers to keep current on with whom they are associating.



I have to go...now!

When small children use public restrooms accompany them inside. If due to gender, you are not able to enter, wait a few moments before allowing the child to enter and then after others have exited and you have seen who has gone in, let them enter. Talk with them from the door, indicating that you are outside waiting for them.



Knock, Knock!

Teach your children about answering the door. They should know never to open the door (or even to take a peek) unless they know the person at the door and you have approved for them to let that person in. If your children are home alone and the person at the front door will not go away or seems suspicious, teach them that it is okay to dial 9-1-1 for law enforcement assistance.



My name is...

Younger children need to know who they are and where they live. Teaching them to know their name, address, phone number and parent's names can be helpful in a variety of situations. However, also teach them that this information is only to be shared with a police officer, firefighter or trusted adult in an emergency.



Know who you are leaving your children with!

Practically all parents need to leave their children in the care of others at some point. While some acquaintances may seem prepared to watch over young people, they may not be. This can be a babysitter or even a relative. Go over your rules with them and discuss what they would do in a variety of situations. If you are not completely satisfied that they will be able to safely watch your young person then don't leave your child with them!



A picture is worth a thousand words...and a safe return home

For young children be sure to always keep a current picture with you. If they become separated from you at a store, mall or other large venue it can be much easier for law enforcement to find them if they have a current picture to view.



Fight, Fight, Fight

Just like an adult, kids need to learn that if someone attempts to abduct them they need to do everything in their power to fight their attacker and escape. They need only stun their attacker long enough to allow them to run away to safety. Anything can be used as an improvised weapon by kids - pencils, rulers, backpacks, or any other item they can grab that can provide them an escape. Teach your kids that they must not give up, and especially impress upon them that they should never willingly go to a different location with the attacker.

KEEPING KIDS SAFE