

KNOW THE RULES®...

# SUMMER SAFETY TIPS to teach children

1. Always **CHECK FIRST** with your parents, guardians, or the trusted adult in charge before you go anywhere or do anything. Be sure to **CHECK IN** regularly with your parents, guardians, or a trusted adult when you're not with them.
2. Always **TAKE A FRIEND** with you when playing or going anywhere. It's safer and more fun.
3. Be aware of people who may offer you treats or gifts. Never accept anything from anyone without your parents' or guardians' permission.
4. Stay **SAFER** when you're home alone by keeping the doors and windows locked; not opening the door for or talking to anyone who comes to the home unless the person is a trusted family friend or relative, you feel comfortable being alone with that person, and the visit has been preapproved by your parents or guardians; and never telling anyone who calls that you're home alone. If your parent or guardian cannot be reached, have a neighbor or other trusted adult you are able to call if you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused or there's an emergency.
5. Always **TAKE A FRIEND** with you when using a public restroom.
6. Always **TAKE A FRIEND** with you when going to malls, movies, parks, or entertainment centers. And always **CHECK FIRST** with your parents or guardians to make sure it's OK.
7. Identify the safest place to go or person to ask for help in reuniting you with your parents or guardians if you become lost. Safe helpers could be a uniformed law-enforcement or security officer, store salesperson with a nametag, person with a nametag who is working at the information booth, or mother with children. Never search for your parents or guardians on your own, and never go with anyone who is trying to reunite you with them.
8. Be careful when you play outside. Stay away from pools, canals, and other bodies of water unless you are with a trusted adult. Don't play near busy streets or deserted areas, and never take shortcuts.
9. Leave clothes or items displaying your name at home and don't be confused just because a person you don't know calls out your name.
10. Say **NO** if anyone you don't know or a person who makes you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused offers you a ride. **CHECK FIRST** with your parents or guardians before taking a ride from anyone.
11. Be careful playing outside as it gets dark. Sometimes it is difficult for people driving to see you. Wear reflectors and protective clothing if your parents or guardians say you may play outside after dark.
12. Say **NO** and **GET AWAY** from any person or situation making you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. **TRUST YOUR FEELINGS**, and be sure to **TELL** a trusted adult if anything happens to make you feel this way. And it's never too late to tell a trusted adult what happened.

**1-800-THE-LOST® (1-800-843-5678)**

**OJJDP** Office of Juvenile Justice  
and Delinquency Prevention  
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**Have a safe and fun summer!**