

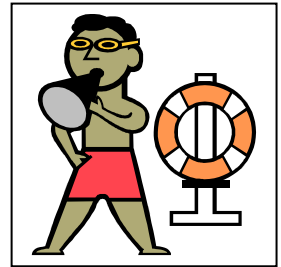
Counselor's Corner

Summer Safety Tips

Make time to talk about safety with your children

Take 25 minutes to talk about safety to your children.

Make sure they know the rules...



Define what your neighborhood boundaries are and whose homes they may visit without you. Teach them to ask you before leaving home and to stay with a friend whenever they are playing outside or going anywhere.

Teach your children their full names, address, and telephone numbers. Make sure they have a trusted adult to call in case of emergency. Children should know their parents' or guardians' full names.

Instruct them to keep the door locked and not to open the door to talk to anyone who comes to the door when they are home alone. Set rules with your children about having visitors over when you are not home. Practice how to answer the phone with your child.

Teach your child in whose vehicle they may ride. Children should never approach any vehicle, occupied or not, unless accompanied by a trusted adult. Explain to your children they should not go near pools or other bodies of water without adult supervision. All pools your children visit should have a visible lifeguard on duty. If you have a pool at home, establish appropriate swimming hours and supervision.

Before your child returns to school, walk or bike together to learn which way they will travel and note how long it takes to come and go from school. The week before school starts help your child with getting to bed on time and waking up early. You and your child will be relaxed and ready for the new school year to begin.

Stay safe, play it smart, and follow the rules!

Have a wonderful summer! Enjoy!

*These tips are adapted from KNOW the RULES...Summer Safety Tips for Parents and Guardians.
Alexandria, Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 1993.
1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) www.missingkids.com*