

## **SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS**

- Be careful around people you don't know. With strangers, it's best to be unfriendly. You don't have to be polite to strangers. Most strangers who try to trick children are men, but some of them are women. Whether a stranger is a man or a woman you must be careful.
- A dangerous stranger can look and act as pleasant as your mother or father. Anyone who tries to trick you or make you disobey your parents is probably dangerous. Do not do as that person tells you. Speak up and talk back if you have to. Report such incidents to your parents immediately.
- Strangers who are dangerous may try to win you over by offering you something they think you'd like. Don't accept anything from a stranger. Well meaning strangers will not give you gifts without permission from your parents. No trustworthy adult would come up to you in a store and offer to buy you a toy or present.
- Never accept a ride unless you know the person very well and have permission from your parents. If someone orders you into a car, run as fast as you can to the closest house or store for help.
- Don't go into a stranger's house - even with a friend. Don't go into anyone's house - and that includes the houses of neighbors and friends - unless you have their okay and your parents' permission before you visit. Always let your parents know where you are. Call home if you get in trouble in someone's house. If you don't know your number, dial "911" or "0" for Operator.
- Don't play alone in a deserted park, empty lots or abandoned buildings. Strangers who want to trick you can show up anywhere, even in your driveway or backyard. If a stranger talks to you through your backyard fence, opens your gate or stands in your driveway, run inside immediately and tell your mother or the person who is taking care of you.
- If someone gives you a funny feeling or makes you uncomfortable in any way, you're probably right not to trust that person. Suppose you're in a store and you don't know exactly where your parent is. If a stranger approaches you, don't try to find your parent by yourself. Go to the nearest clerk or checkout counter for help.
- Never go with a stranger unless he or she can give you the code word that only your family knows. A code word is a secret word only you and your family know. Never tell your code word to anyone, not even your best friend. Never, never ask the stranger for your code word. If the stranger says the word, you know immediately that he or she was really sent by your parents.
- If you and your parents think code words are confusing, you should decide on a plan for emergencies, so you know what to do. Go over the emergency plan a few times to be sure you understand it.
- Strangers who want to trick you will make up a lie to frighten and confuse you. If someone grabs you, yell. Calling for help is not babyish - it's smart. You should yell, "You don't know me! I'm being kidnapped. You're not my father! That way, people will realize that you're not just fighting with your parents. Everyone will understand that a stranger is trying to take you against your wishes.
- If a stranger is mean enough to hold you by force, then you have every right to fight back. Hit or kick the stranger. Mean strangers do not like fights. They hope you will go with them quietly. If you yell and fight, there is a good chance that the stranger will let you go.