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Preventing child abductions

By frank g.

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Child molesters and abductors usually look like everyday people. They can be anybody, the teacher, next door neighbor, mailman and they come in all ages, old and young. Tell your kids not to talk to adults they do not know. Anytime they are approached by an unfamiliar adult they should check with a parent or trusted adult immediately!

Often times they will befriend a child by asking for help or offering something for their attention. Some examples are: Asking to help find a lost item or pet, offering reward money or for the very young ones candy or toys for assistance, saying they are good friends with mom or dad, acting like a police officer (children should only approach uniformed police officers, and/or marked police cars).

They may also gain your child's trust by very minor contacts over several days, such as saying hello to them repeatedly. Make sure your children know to tell you if a stranger is trying to make friends with them right away!

Child molesters and abductors who prey on children wait for the right opportunity, like when the child is alone. Children should not be outside their home by themselves, even for short periods of time. They should walk to and from school and bus stops in groups.

Working together with other families in your neighborhood to develop a formal plan for kids to walk together is a good idea. Parents are encouraged to join or organize a Neighborhood Watch program in their community. A car or other vehicle such as a van is often the means by which the abductor kidnaps the child from the neighborhood. Children should never approach a vehicle unless they are absolutely sure they know the occupants. Abductors entice children to walk near their vehicles with some type of gift or questions and then pull them inside.

If children routinely see the same car parked (or following them) on their normal walking routes (to and from school, etc.) they should report it to trusted adults immediately! And the local police should be notified if strange activity is apparent!

Here are some statistics:

- Approximately 879,000 children (or 12.2 per 1,000) were maltreated (neglected or abused) in 2000.
- Sixty-three percent of maltreated children were neglected, nineteen percent were physically abused,

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ten percent were sexually abused, and eight percent were emotionally or psychologically maltreated.

·In 2000, 51.9 percent of child victims of maltreatment were female, and 48.1 percent were male.

·The rate of victimization of children was inversely related to the age of the child. Children from birth to age 3 were victimized at the highest rate.

·More than half of all child victims were white (50.6 percent), almost a quarter were black (24.7 percent), and nearly a sixth (14.2 percent) were Hispanic. American Indian/Alaska Natives made up 1.6 percent of victims, and Asian–Pacific Islanders accounted for 1.4 percent.

·Nearly nine percent of child victims experienced recurrence of maltreatment within six months of the initial substantiated incident.

·The majority of perpetrators of child maltreatment in 2000 were women (59.9 percent), while men accounted for 40.1 percent.

·Seventy–nine percent of perpetrators were parents of the maltreated child, and other relatives made

up 8.5 percent of perpetrators. Both parents were perpetrators in 18.7 percent of cases.

·Thirty–seven children were killed by their babysitter in 2001.

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Child Safety And Child Protection: Easy Steps You Can Take Part 3 Of 3

By Thomas Trotts

Unfortunately the reality is, you can't always be with your child. Occasionally your child is left in the care and supervision of other adults. As horrible as it is to imagine, the fact is, most child abductions occur by close family friends and/or other adults that the child is already familiar with. However, here are a few things you can teach your child that will empower them with the awareness they need to help keep them safe...even when you can't be there.

Let's begin...

There are "flags" that you can teach your child to be aware of, that seem to occur on a consistent bases with child abductions. One of those "flags" is that predators or would be predators often will test their potential victims. They will try and see how a child will react to seeming innocent situations. They often do this by seeing if the child can "keep a secret."

Your child should know to ALWAYS tell you if someone has asked them or wants them to keep a "secret"

That no one should ever, ever touch or attempt to touch them in ANY part of their body covered by a bathing suit. And that they should never touch anyone in these areas either. Explain to them that the

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body is special and private.

To ask anyone who drives him anywhere, not to leave him alone in the car—but if he is alone in a car, to put up the windows, leaving a "finger" space between the window glass and the rim, and to lock the doors and stay near the car horn. If a stranger approaches the car, he should blow the horn until help arrives.

That she has the right to say NO to anyone who tries to take her somewhere, touches her, or makes her feel uncomfortable in any way.

If anyone tries to take them away to yell, "This is NOT my parent!" And keep yelling, even kicking and screaming. But ALWAYS use the words "This is not my parent!"

To never accept a ride with anyone else than who you allowed them to go with in the first place. Occasionally, abductors or child abduction schemes will involve a "hand off" of the child, after the child has been allowed to go with someone who is close and familiar to the family.

Your child should always ask permission to leave the yard or to go to a neighbors house. Older children should phone home to tell you where they are, especially if they change locations.

Your child should NEVER hitch hike! If your child calls and needs you pick them up, or needs a ride to go to another location. Stop what your doing and take them! They could have made a worse decision. They could be avoiding getting in a car with a drunk driver, or avoiding one of the dangers you taught them about. Give them the ride, it's easier than dealing with the stress and emotional drain of having a missing child. Or even worse yet, identifying your childs body.

Teach your child to be home before dark. They may give you a hard time, but they will surely thank you later in life. And if they find themselves "late," to stay away from dark or abandoned places.

And finally, teach your child to To avoid adults who are waiting around a playground - particularly an adult who wants to play with them and their friends.

I hope you have found this 3 part series "Child Safety and Child Protection: Easy Steps You Can Take" usefull. The information you have been provided was compiled by multiple missing child agencies from all over the United States. These are the investigators on the front lines of the more than 1.4 Million missing child cases that are reported every single year.

Use the information I have provided for you and don't take your childs' safety lightly. Practice these child safety and child protection techniques. It's important we all do our part to keeping the children of the world safe, and out of danger, today, tommorrow, and everyday for the rest of their lives.

Have An Incredible and Very Safe Day!

Thomas Trotts is a Child Safety expert, owner of

, and is dedicated to

providing quality Child Protection Services and resources for parents and families. To learn more about Child Protection and receive your free "Parents Guide To Preventing Child Abduction" go to:



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