

# CHILD SAFETY TIPS:

- Keep a current photo of your children.
- Practice scenarios with your children to teach them what they should do if a person they don't know approaches them.
- Teach your children not to give out personal information to strangers, especially on social network sites or the Internet.
- Have your children fingerprinted and keep the cards in a safe place.
- Know where to obtain your children's dental and medical records.
- Know who your children's friends are and maintain a list of their parents' names and phone numbers.
- Don't have your children's names visible from the outside of their clothing, jewelry, backpacks or toys.
- Don't leave your children alone in a car.
- Teach your children to look for a police officer, store employee or mother with children to assist them if they become lost.
- Check the Florida Sexual Offender and Predator website and sign up to receive notifications when a sex offender or predator moves into your area at [www.fdle.state.fl.us](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us).



For additional information regarding how to keep your child safe contact:

Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
Missing Endangered Persons  
Information Clearinghouse

2331 Phillips Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32308  
(850) 410-8585 • 1-888-356-4774  
Or visit our website at:  
[www.fdle.state.fl.us](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us)



# A Guide to Keeping your Child Safe

## Safety Tips for Parents on How to Keep Your Children Safe



# The best way to keep your children safe is to Empower them with knowledge about safety and prevention

## What Your Children Should Know

Children may become lost or missing for many reasons; child abductions being the most rare but serious cause. It is essential to talk to your children from a young age about what they should do if they get lost or if somebody tries to hurt them. Teach your children to stay away from strangers.

Although many children picture strangers as "bad guys," who look different from other people, it is important to make sure your children understand that a stranger is simply any person they don't know. Ultimately, children are more likely to be harmed by a person they know than a stranger, so it is important to watch how people interact with your children.

Encourage your children to speak with you openly if someone hurts them or makes them feel uncomfortable, even if that person is a family member or trusted friend. Teach your children to say "no" if someone makes them do something that is wrong or makes them feel uncomfortable.

Tell your children that they cannot go anywhere without your permission, even if they are going with a person they know. Families should develop a short list of 3-4 people who are safe for your child to go home with in an emergency. Many families use a family "safety word." The family safety word should not be easily guessed (e.g. a pet's name) and must be changed once it has been used.

Teach your children what to do if they become lost or separated from you in a public place. Tell them to stand still and wait for help or ask a police officer or store employee to assist them. Prepare your children in advance to identify trustworthy persons of authority who can provide assistance in the event that they get lost or go missing.

## What to do if Your child goes missing

If your child becomes lost or missing, search the surrounding area to make sure that your child hasn't hidden or wandered nearby. If you cannot locate your child, contact law enforcement immediately to report them missing. Be prepared to provide law enforcement with a description of your child, including hair and eye color, height, weight, date of birth, clothing description, and other physical attributes including birthmarks or scars.

Provide your child's recent photograph, fingerprints, dental and medical records to the police.

Give the police a list of contact information for family, friends and those who have interacted with your child.

Children with autism are far more likely to be drawn towards water. Drowning is a leading cause of death in autistic children. If your child goes missing, inform law enforcement about the bodies of water in your area.

Contact the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse at 1-888-FL MISSING (356-4774) for additional assistance.

### WHAT YOUR CHILDREN SHOULD KNOW

This list can help you identify safety tips for children of all ages

**WHO THEY ARE**  
including their full name, phone number, and the address they live in.

**HOW TO CONTACT YOU**  
including your full name, address, and phone number.

**HOW TO CALL FOR HELP**  
by dialing 911 in an emergency.

**HOW TO SAY NO**  
when someone tries to hurt them or makes them feel uncomfortable.

**WHO CAN BE TRUSTED**  
to help them or pick them up when you are unavailable.

**HOW TO GET AWAY**  
from a person who tries to take them by screaming "you are not my mommy/daddy," fighting and running as fast as they can.