

Student safety fact sheet

Parents can use this fact sheet to help their children develop protective behaviours when travelling between school and home. It can be used as a guide and role-playing is encouraged so that children can practise what to do if approached.

Police constables, teachers and principals also work with students to learn protective behaviours at school.

Walking to and from school

- Take the safest routes to and from school, stores, and friends houses.
- Walk confidently. Be alert.
- Children should walk and play with friends and avoid places that could be dangerous.
- Always try to walk with a friend or a grown-up.
- Avoid strangers who hang around playgrounds, public restrooms, empty buildings, etc.

If approached by a stranger

- If you are frightened, ask the stranger to leave you alone.
- If they persist, yell as loud as you can for help. Don't just scream, yell out 'Help I don't know this person'
- No matter what story a stranger may tell you never get near or into his or her car.
- Never go with a stranger to find a lost puppy.
- Never let a stranger get too close, whether he or she is in a car or walking.
- Children should report any incident or concern to someone they trust immediately.

What NOT to do

- Never go to deserted places alone.
- Never talk to strangers.
- Never accept lollies or gifts from a stranger.
- Never go anywhere with a stranger.
- Never take weapons to school.
- Never play alone on playgrounds.

How parents can help

- Talk about safe places they can go in their neighbourhood in an emergency.
- Make sure that children know their full name, address and telephone number.
- Think of a code word that any person who collects the child should know. If an adult the child isn't familiar with comes to pick them up, the child can ask for the code word.
- Ask children to check in with a parent or trusted neighbour immediately after arriving home.
- Report any incident or concern to the police immediately.

Anyone with information about an alleged incident should call police immediately on 131 444 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.