

Stranger Danger For Kids!

Hey kids, the Massachusetts Safety Officers League is, as always, interested in the safety and education of children about stranger danger! Strangers CAN hurt you. So, be aware of these Safety Tips and always BE SAFE!

Who is a Stranger?

A stranger is anyone you don't know! Strangers can be men, women or teenagers. If you have never met them in real life, they are a stranger! Although there are "good strangers", some strangers are not always good and some can hurt you. Examples of good strangers are police officers, firemen, teachers, store clerks and security guards. A stranger who is not good, does not have to look scary. They can be good looking, clean and well dressed. There is no way to tell if someone is good just by looking at them. Most people are nice, but there are some who are bad. Bad people don't wear a sign on their head saying "I'm bad!", so we have to be careful of all strangers. Bad people can pretend to be good to try to fool you. So, don't be fooled! Just stay away.

If a stranger tries to talk to me?

Ignore them. Don't look at or acknowledge that they have spoken to you. Walk quickly or run away from them. Go in the opposite direction as fast as you can. Go to a home of someone you know or to an area that has a lot of people. You can dart into a store or school if you have to. Tell an adult you can trust about what happened, like a parent, a teacher, a police officer or other grownup your parents said you can talk to.

But, what if I'm home alone?

Keep all the doors and windows locked and don't let anyone know you are home alone. If someone rings the doorbell, look through a peephole or window to see who it is. If you don't recognize them, don't open the door! Even if they are saying it is an emergency and they need

to use to phone or come inside, don't open the door. They can go to another house where an adult is home to help them. If someone calls and asks for your parents, don't tell them you're home alone. Tell the person your mom or dad can't come to the phone right now but you'll take a message and they'll call them back in a few minutes. If you have call display and don't recognize the name or phone number on the phone, don't answer it. Just let the answering machine pick up the message.

How can strangers trick me?

Strangers who are bad people and want to hurt you have developed some pretty tricky things to do to confuse you and get you alone with them. First there is the:

"The Help Trick"

This is when a stranger asks you to help them find a lost pet or maybe asks you for directions to get somewhere. Seems harmless enough right? That's what they want you to think. A stranger should ask an adult for help! So, turn and walk away. Another is:

"The Emergency Trick"

This is a scary one for a child. A stranger will tell you that there is an emergency in your family and your mom or dad asked them to get you. The stranger may even say that your mom or dad got hurt. But, think straight! Your mom or dad would never send a stranger to tell you news like this! Turn around and run away! Another is:

"The Accident Trick"

This is when a stranger lays on the ground and looks like they have been hurt or in pain or unconscious. Kids want to help and be heroes. But, don't go over to the person. They can grab you and take you away. Instead, go to someone you know and tell them about it or call 911 for help. You don't even need to be near the person while an emergency crew comes to help. Another: "The Animal Trick"

This is hard for kids to resist, but, you can do it! This is when a stranger holds a small animal

and invites you to pet it. This is a trick! You are close enough for this stranger to let the animal go and grab you. The stranger might ask you to come back to their car or home and help feed the baby animal. Don't! Turn around and run away. Another:

" The Bribe Trick"

This is when a stranger promises you candy, money or something. People don't give gifts to people they don't know. This is a trick. Once the stranger has you alone you are in danger. Turn around and run away.

Kids! Remember that:

People who look friendly are NOT always necessarily nice! Be alert and aware and **KEEP SAFE** by knowing these safety tips!

- Memorize and know your name, address, phone number and parents cell number.
- Use the buddy system. Don't walk anywhere alone. Walk with a friend to have more fun.
- Trust your instincts – if you feel you are being followed or something is not right, get help immediately or go someplace safe.
- Always tell your parents where you are going and call them when you get there.
- Don't take shortcuts through the woods, a back street or empty lot.
- Do not get close to strangers. Take 3 steps back and make room to get away.
- Don't ever tell your name, address or school name to a stranger.
- Never take candy, money or gifts from a stranger. It could be a trick!
- Never go with a stranger to help look for a lost pet or play a game.
- Never get into a car with anyone you don't know without your parents OK.
- If a stranger follows you or grabs for you, yell real loud. Shout, "I don't know you," so people know you are in trouble. Fight back and make as much noise as you can. If they threaten to hurt you or your family, keep yelling. They can't hurt you from jail!
- Never, ever, hitchhike!

- Know safe places you can go. Try a police or fire station, the library, a store where people are or a friend's house
- If a stranger bothers you, run away and ask a trusted adult for help.
- If someone is following you try to remember the license plate of his or her vehicle and immediately tell a trusted adult
- If anyone touches you in a bad way, say "NO" as loudly as you can and run away. Then, tell an adult right away.
- Trust your feelings. If something feels funny or wrong to you, YOU CAN SAY NO. It is good to say no to an adult who tries to do something that is wrong.
- Tell someone you trust what happened, even if the person said it was a secret or that they would hurt you or someone else if you told.
- Tell your parents about places or people that make you feel uncomfortable.
- Talk to your parents and come up with a secret code word for emergencies. Never go with anyone unless they know the code word.
- Know how and when to call 9-1-1.
- Never open the door to a stranger.
- Never tell anyone on the phone you are alone. Read Home Alone above again.
- Do not tell callers your name, phone number, address or school name.
- If you don't like what someone is saying on the phone, hang up right away.
- If they call back, let the phone ring and let it go to the answering machine.
- If you come home and a window in your house is broken or a door is open that shouldn't be, don't go in. Go to a trusted neighbor, or find a phone and call 911.
- Don't wear your name Never put your name on the outside of your coat, lunch box, knapsack. Someone could trick you into thinking they know you by using your name.
- If you get lost - If you are at the mall and you get separated from your parents, don't go wandering around. Look for a trusted adult

or go into a store and tell the clerk that you've lost your parents. They will know what to do. **DO NOT GO OUTSIDE OF THE MALL WITH ANYONE**, even if they tell you they saw your parents in the parking lot or that your parents told them to get you!

- This Stranger Danger Trifold could not possibly include all the dangers to children, but, is intended as a good starting point to educate children on the subject! The Massachusetts Safety Officers League wants you to:
Be Aware, Be Alert and BE SAFE!

A Note For Parents

Stranger Danger lessons should be ongoing! Remember the single most important thing when teaching your children about Stranger Danger - Instill confidence, rather than fear! Equip your child with the knowledge and strategies they'll need to protect themselves in potentially dangerous situations. Also, base your lessons upon your child's age and maturity level to achieve maximum results. While sharing the above tips with your child is extremely important, the best way to teach stranger danger lessons is through role-playing scenarios!

Here are more web sites to check further on the topic of Stranger Danger For Kids!

<http://www.mychildsafety.net/stranger-danger.html>
<http://www.mychildsafety.net/teaching-stranger-danger.html>
http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/NewsEventServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=2034
http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ResourceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=1157
http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ResourceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=884
http://www.safetycops.com/k5_safety.htm
<http://www.shoppingthevillage.com/stranger.htm>
http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/stranger_danger_coloring_pages.htm
<http://www.youthonline.ca/safety/stranger.shtm>
http://masafetyofficers.org/msol_strangerandfamilialdanger.doc



Stranger Danger Just For Kids



MSOL Website

www.masafetyofficers.org

MSOL Membership

Application Website

www.masafetyofficers.org/membership.htm