

# Security for Children

Know the three "Ws": **Where** your kids are, **What** they're doing, and **Who** they're with.

Keep a list of last names, addresses & phone numbers of their friends.

Keep recent photos (less than 6 month old) of your children.

Teach them their full name address, phone number as well as your full name & phone number. Teach them not to give out this information unless they are injured or lost.

Make sure your child knows your work number & cellular number as well as other important numbers. For very young children, make sure their school or care provider has all your important numbers.

Teach them never to accept lifts or presents from people they don't know. Teach them that bad people sometimes look nice & that people on the Internet sometimes tell lies.

Remember, most cases of child abuse are committed by adults known to the victim. If your child dislikes or acts strangely around a neighbour, teacher or older relative gently try to find out why. Do not demand answers, this will likely make the child not willing to answer.

Make sure they know how to lock doors & windows & to operate alarm systems.

Make sure they know how to give directions in case of emergency.

Make sure they know how to safely use the stove & various appliances.

Use available controls on cable boxes & computers to control what they watch on TV or what websites they visit.

If you have very young children:

Keep medicines, cleaning supplies, etc. locked up out of their reach. A small child who will climb on a chair to reach ketchup or cereal will do the same to reach the medicine chest.

Install child locks on cabinets & plug covers on all sockets within their reach.

Keep them away from the stove, iron, etc. when these are in use.

Have a home "Fire Drill" & practice it regularly. Designate escape points (especially if you have grills) & a prearranged meeting place once they are out.

# “Home Alone”

## If your school age child goes home to an empty house

Before you allow this practice make sure your child:

- Is old enough & **mature** enough to stay alone
- Knows basic safety & security practices
- Can be trusted to go straight home after school
- Can use appliances, alarms, etc. properly & will do so.
- Handle unexpected situations without panicking
- Can stay alone without being afraid
- Knows all your phone numbers & all emergency numbers

Teach them the following practices:

- To carry their key safely, don't leave it under a mat or flowerpot.
- Not to enter the house if a door is open or anything looks wrong.
- To keep doors locked
- To call you or check in with a neighbour as soon as they get home.
- To call you if they are staying late at school or going somewhere else.
- To never let anyone in without your permission
- To never let anyone know they are alone. Let them say “Mom can't come to the phone (or door) right now”.
- How to get out in case of a fire.
- To let you know if anything frightens them or makes them uncomfortable.
- Not to get so lost in a TV show or video game that they don't hear unusual outside noises.
- Not to leave a lit stove unattended.