

The 1-2-3s of Back-To-School

Safety Tips for Children

1. At School

- Know where the Block Parent homes are in your neighborhood.
- Know when you can and cannot use a Block Parent home.
- Always walk and play in pairs or groups.
- When going to school, go directly there and do not stop along the way.
- Use the same route every day.
- Never hitchhike.
- Never go with anyone unless they can give you the “secret code” or “password”.
- Never ride home with anyone unless you have your parent’s / caregiver’s permission first.
- Always ask for your parent’s / caregiver’s permission before going to a friend’s home after school.

2. At Home Alone

- Never let anyone into your house if you are home alone.
- Never say you are home alone when talking on the phone.

3. At Play

- Always be sure your parent / caregiver knows where you are.
- Never accept anything from someone (i.e. candy, money or gifts) without your parent’s / caregiver’s permission.
- Be careful if a grown-up asks for directions. Keep a safe distance away.
- Say ‘no’ if a friend or grown-up asks you to do something you don’t think is right.
- Remember, if something feels bad or scary, get away and tell someone you trust.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Walk, don’t run, across the street.
- Use crosswalks whenever possible.
- Walk on the left-hand side of the road, facing the traffic, if there are no sidewalks.
- Obey traffic signs, lights and crossing guards.
- Never play in empty buildings or isolated areas.
- Never play near parked cars.

Safety Tips for Parents

- Find out if there is a Block Parent Program in your community and learn how this program makes your neighborhood safe.
- Take primary age children on a walking tour of their route to and from school. Point out Block Parent homes, other safe places and dangerous places along the way.
- Never put your child’s name on the outside of their coats, hats, backpacks, etc. as this makes it easier for someone to gain their trust by calling them by name.

- Make sure your child knows their name, address and telephone number, including area code.
- Make sure your child knows how to use a pay phone in an emergency.
- Always keep an updated list of names, addresses and phone numbers of your child's friends.
- Post emergency numbers by the phone.
- Know your child's whereabouts at all times.
- Be familiar with your child's friends and daily activities.
- Reinforce with your child that strangers can drive any type of vehicle, can be male or female, young or old, short or tall, or can look shabby or well-dressed.
- Consider using a 'secret code' or 'password' should someone other than you pick up your child.
- Make the school aware of any food allergies your child may have. It may be wise to have your child wear a Medic-Alert bracelet.
- Check with your school to make sure they have a 'safe arrival program / absentee check'.
- Check with your school to see if they have the 'walking school bus' program.
- Check with your school to see what other community initiatives they may have.
- Reinforce these safety tips by playing "what if...?" games with your child.
- Reinforce the "Don't go with someone you don't know" message often and ensure your child understands.

“Why don't you become a part of the largest volunteer-based crime prevention program in Canada? Become a Block Parent today! Register at www.CalgaryBlockParent.ca”