

New Neighborhood

Safety Tips

Moving to a new community may be an exciting and challenging time for families. It is vital to communicate with your children about their new home and neighborhood and reassure them about the changes in their lives. It is also important to pay careful attention to their feelings about the move and encourage them to share their thoughts with you.

1. Make certain your children know their full names, new address, and telephone numbers as soon as possible.
2. Make a point of meeting your neighbors and introducing them to your children while you and with them.
3. Make a list of contact and emergency telephone numbers as soon as possible after you move. Include TRUSTED ADULTS your children may contact if they need assistance and you are unavailable. In the event your children may be lost or injured, make sure they carry a contact card with your name and telephone numbers such as work or mobile. This card should be hidden from view.
4. Take your children on a walking tour of the neighborhood, and determine what supervision they need when outside. Teach them
 - a. Surrounding streets and main roads by name and landmarks
 - b. To stay on main roads and never take shortcuts
 - c. Landmarks and safe places they may go for assistance if they need help
5. Make a map with your children of acceptable routes to and from school, the playground, store, and any other locations they are allowed to visit. Encourage them to carry the map at all times to use if they need help finding their way.
6. Remind your children they must CHECK FIRST with you before they open the door for anyone or go anywhere.
7. Remind your children of these safety rules when they are at home alone.
 - a. Keep the doors and windows locked.
 - b. Never open the door for or talk to anyone who calls or comes to the home unless the person is a trusted family friend or relative your children feel comfortable talking to or being alone with and whose visit has been pre-approved by you.
8. Caution your children to never give out personal information to anyone or tell anyone they are home alone.
9. Teach your children to trust their feelings and TELL you or another trusted adult if anyone makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused in any way.
10. Practice these safety rules with your children to make certain they really know and understand them. Make outings around the new neighborhood “teachable moments” and a chance to put their skills to the test.