

A Missing Child Is Everyone's Child



How many of us as parents have felt that terror when we have been shopping and turn around to find our young child has disappeared... only to pop up again a minute later with a big grin on his/her face because they were hiding on us? Imagine this terror when a child

REALLY disappears....

Dedicated to Lindsey Baum
our
missing child



"There are days (most) when I don't think I could miss Lindsey more, or hurt any worse, and then tomorrow comes and I see that I was wrong – If only I had known that my daughter wasn't safe and if only I could have taught her more ways to protect herself I'd have my baby, my movie buddy, home with me tonight" ... Melissa Baum



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Foreword

Life changed for us on 6-26-2009 here in the little town of McCleary, WA, my daughters' 10 year old best friend – a much loved regular in our home, went missing. Her name is Lindsey Baum and the tragedy that surrounds her story is also what has united many of the authors that have contributed to this book.

Lindsey's short walk home should have taken her 7 minutes but that 7 minutes has turned in to an excruciatingly long 4 weeks as of the compilation of this book. The fear, anxiety, flagging hopes and sadness are intensified each day that passes with no news and no new developments. The not knowing haunts us daily and we are left with little more than our hope, sleepless nights, what if's and a hard lesson learned – one we pray we get a second chance at.

On 07-07-2009, my family spent the day with Lindsey's family as we held an emotional gathering to acknowledge Lindsey's 11th birthday that she was not with us to celebrate. We think back on things now and had we only known and talked with our kids about a lot of what you will find in this book – we may not be where we are today and Lindsey could be home with us right now.

When this took place I turned for help and support from my fellow eHow writers and what I got was exactly what I had asked for, but it did not stop there – their love and support spilled over and together they united and created a way to not only support me and Lindsey, but to also educate you. This book will help guide and educate you, and your children, about child abduction and what child(ren) might be able to do should they ever be kidnapped and try to get away from their attacker.

Read this book, talk to your children, educate them and then hug them extra tight each night. Do whatever you must to make sure you never, ever understand how we feel.

Kara Kampen

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Chapter 1 How to Help Find a Missing Child

How to Help with Finding Missing Children

By MomWhoWrites



It's a gut wrenching fact that children go missing every day but you can help find missing children. Even if you don't live near the missing child's home, you can help in a number of ways to get them back home where they belong. It only takes one tip, one hint of a lead, to help find a missing child.

Step One

Volunteer to join the search party if you live in or near the same area as the missing child or children.

Step Two

Provide help and support to volunteers and Law Enforcement who are working on finding the missing child or children. This can entail picking up lunches, making coffee, making copies, handing out water, ensuring they have fresh paper and pens or helping in any way they could use it.

Step Three

Hand out flyers to everyone that you come across and ask stores and other businesses to post pictures of the lost or potentially abducted child in prominent locations such as at the counter or on the front door to assist with finding the missing or lost child.

Staple flyers to poles and fences and post them up at the local notice boards offered by many grocery stores. Put flyers and posters of the missing child or children up everywhere that you can.

Step Four

Provide Law Enforcement with any information you can, no matter how insignificant you may feel it is, every little thing counts when it comes to finding lost children.

If you, or anyone in your family, has overheard or witnessed anything in regards to the case, inform officials. There have been many cases where the smallest of leads have reunited children with their families.

Step Five

Sign up to receive Amber Alerts and encourage your place of employment to do the same. This way you know right away to be on the look out for any signs of the child or possible abductor.

Step Six

Add banners, text links, RSS feeds and widgets to your websites, blogs and MySpace pages that feature pictures of missing children. (Check out the resource section below for many helpful links)

Step Seven

Report any possible sightings immediately by calling 911. Don't put yourself in danger or compromise the child, follow directions from the 911 operator.

Step Eight

Ask friends on forums and in chat rooms to pray and spread the child's picture and story of their disappearance far and wide.

This can be a crucial step in helping to find missing children as many people miss or purposely do not watch local or national news. So you would be helping to hit a large part of that community by getting the news out there and available on the internet.

Resources

- [Missing and Exploited Children Website](#)
- [Banners and Links](#)
- [LexisNexis\(r\) Adam Program](#)
- [Code Adam](#)
- [Google Gadget for Missing-Children](#)
- [Google Gadget for Amber Alerts](#)
- [ICMEC/YouTube Missing-Children Channel](#)
- [MySpace Widget](#)

- [Missing Children Screen Saver](#)
- [Pictures Work](#)
- [Poster-Partner Program](#)
- [RSS Feeds](#)
- [Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Wireless Amber Alerts](#)
- [Texas Equusearch \(Free will Travel\)](#)
- [America's Most Wanted - Missing-Children](#)
- [Find Lindsey Baum](#)

Find this article at:http://www.ehow.com/how_5177061_finding-missing-children.html

How to Support a Family of a Missing Child

by Ask Lucy

A missing child is every parent's worst nightmare. It is a crisis that can last hours, weeks or even months. Well meaning family and friends want to help and may not know how to provide support during this time. Here are some ideas on how to provide support for a family who has a missing child.

Things You'll Need

- A warm heart
- Willingness to provide whatever is needed

Step One

Understand that a crisis of this nature causes a great deal of stress, emotions and reactions that are a normal reaction to traumatic events. A parent who is emotionally volatile, numb, angry, distant- may be in shock- and may be reacting normally to a not-normal event.

Step Two

Listen without judgment. Listen to the parent or family members tell and repeat their stories without judgment regarding what they should have done or how they should be reacting.

Step Three

Focus on what you know and can do, without speculating about cause. It is not helpful to spend time on what might have been done, or how it could have been prevented. It is helpful to focus on what can be done now and accept any feelings that come up now.

Step Four

Help parents who are overwhelmed re-establish household routines for themselves and their family. All family members need food, rest and need clean clothes to get through the day and attend to the tasks of dealing with the missing child. Help establish new, temporary patterns of eating, car pools, laundry etc., to allow parents to focus on what they need to do to get their child back.

Step Five

Accept emotions as they come- and when they go. People take in information in chunks. A parent with a missing child may be extremely emotional as a wave of emotion hits them, and then able to focus on the task at hand. At other times they seem numb- which is also a normal reaction as they have to put aside emotions to cope with daily life. Accept what is offered.

Step Six

Ask what is needed to help. Avoid assuming what others think, feel and want. While some things may be obvious, i.e. the dog has no water, other tasks should not be assumed- like moving the missing child's toys or taking over someone's kitchen without permission.

Step Seven

Talk in the present tense about the missing child and do not be afraid to use their name. Keep a hopeful attitude. Let the parent take the lead for any changes regarding household habits- changes to the child's place at the table or their room.

Step Eight

Remember the family pets and help ensure their needs are met. Pets are a source of comfort and may be very important to other children in the house and the missing child when they return.

Step Nine

Take care of yourself. It is possible to be traumatized secondarily- to become fearful about your own family- when helping a family of a missing child. Make sure that your needs, and those of your family are met- and that you have adequate support.

Step Ten

Suggest support if needed. Chances are, if a child has gone missing, many offers of volunteer or professional support have been offered. If you feel that the family you are helping could benefit from additional help, find a gentle way to say it. If they turn down an offer, accept it. People can take what they need and want at a time of their choosing.

Tips & Warnings

- There is a great deal more information out there, read the resources for additional ideas.

Resources

- * [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)
- * [Child search](#)
- * [Amber Alert](#)
- * [Team Hope](#)

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5211301_support-family-missing-child.html

How to Help With a Child Abduction in Your Community

by ReUseItAll

When a child goes missing anywhere in the world it is heartbreaking. Many of us want to help and wish we lived closer to do more. By educating yourself, you will be prepared immediately to help with a search for a missing child in your area. Here are some steps that you can take to help in your community.

Step One

The first step is to stay aware of your local news from day to day. The first few days after a child goes missing are so important in the search. If you are aware that a child has gone missing that day, you can immediately begin to help.

Step Two

Familiarize yourself with your local community. As you drive on a daily basis, look around as you pass wooded areas, parks, waterways and abandoned areas. If someone took the time to abduct a child, chances are they were somewhat familiar with these opportune areas that they could take a child. If you are alerted that a child is missing, you'll have these places in mind to start searching in right away. You can even get a map now of your community so that you have it handy to help you search if the need ever arises.

Step Three

If a child does go missing in your community, make contact with the family and local police. Find out the details surrounding the child's disappearance. Some good questions to ask are:

*Where was he or she last seen?

*What were they wearing?

*Did they have on any jewelry, a hat, a watch, etc that you should look for as well?

*Is there a photo that is being made public?

*Where did the child like to go in the area?

Tell them that you want to help and identify who you are and how they can contact you to ask for community support.

Step Four

Talk to friends and family in your area to be prepared as well. Enlist other community members right away to spread out and start to search. Search woods, parks, empty lots and around water for any sign of the missing child, a struggle, dirt disturbed and fresh tire marks. If these are areas that are usually undisturbed than it should look that way so a disturbance may be a sign of this missing child. If its a place that is underwater from a heavy rain, alert the police that it may be a good place to search. Follow up and ask the police if that area ended up being searched so it stays fresh in their minds and is not overlooked.

Step Five

Search with another person. Never go alone. Search with a phone handy as well so that you can immediately report to the police if you find something. Make lots of noise walking through quiet areas that will let everyone know that you are searching for a missing child. Call the child's name as you are searching these areas. If you see anyone suspicious call the police immediately. Remember that you are not the police and this person may be extremely dangerous. If they run DO NOT run after them alone. Focus on where they came from and proceed with caution as you investigate in a group. This suspicious individual may have had the child with them and you startled them. If its a secluded area, wait for police. There could have been more than one person there.

As you look, remember to let authorities know where you've searched. Stay organized with the search group that has been set up by them to look for the missing child so that you can be the most effective.

Step Six

If the search turns into days of searching, find out if there is a command center being set up with an hotline. Pass this information along to your family and friends and ask them to circulate it, preferably with a picture of the missing child. If there has been a flyer made to distribute, ask if you can help pass them out as well.

Step Seven

Have information and a photo of the missing child ready and start calling and email local and national news programs and ask them to help cover the search of this missing child. Be persistent and remind them that every second counts and the family needs to get the news out to as many people as possible right away. You are a concerned community member and are being driven by the safeguarding of a child!

Step Eight

Continue to help in every way that you can. Take turns with a spouse aiding in the search, if you have family responsibilities. Try and give as much time as you can and remember that life has stopped for the family of this missing child. Ask the family what else you could do to help. Each situation has different circumstances that you may be able to assist in. If you can afford it, bring food and bottled water over to the family to help sustain them. In times of crisis, if its not easily accessible, a family may forget to eat and stay hydrated.

Step Nine

Don't give up. Stay in touch with the family and what is going on in the search for this missing child. If it turns into months or longer, let the family know that you are keeping them in your thoughts. They need to know that strangers are there for them as well and that you know they are suffering and haven't forgotten.

Tips & Warnings

- To be the most helpful, stay educated! Know your community and watch for suspicious cars and people that are out of place. This information may be very helpful if a child goes missing.
- Stay in touch with the police and ask how your group can be the most helpful in this situation. Let them advise you first.
- Stay focused on helping the family and bringing this child home to them.
- Talk to your friends and other community members about being educated and prepared as well for a potential child abduction!
- Never search alone if a child goes missing in your community!! Always search in a group so you stay safe as well.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5196859_child-abduction-community.html

How to Help

Someone Whose Child Is Missing

by thebigscott

The parents of missing children need help. The problem is, sometimes it's hard to figure out what to do. Frequently, I am struck by how many people don't have the slightest idea what to say to someone going through a traumatic situation like this, much less an idea of how to help them. I'm hoping that no one ever needs this article, but if someone you care about has a missing child, this might help you find ways to be of comfort.

Step One

Tell the parents that you are sorry that their child is missing. If you love them, let them know. Listen to them when they want to talk. Don't judge them or their situation. Don't tell them what they should have done to avoid the situation, what they need to do to now, or even that it's all in God's plan. Now is not the time. Besides, any concrete ideas you have should be directed toward the police, not grief-stricken parents.

Step Two

Help them with daily tasks. Don't ask if there's anything you can do to help because no one ever says yes to that no matter how much they need help. Instead of offering help, just give it. Do the laundry or dishes, drop off some milk and toilet paper, clean out the fridge, or mow the lawn in the summer.

Even though you're trying to help, you still need to respect their boundaries. Base what you do on your relationship with the family. If you just met them a few weeks ago they probably don't want you picking up their other kids from school, but they'd be touched if you swept their porch off or put their trash cans away after the garbage truck ran. Even in the midst of this crisis all those mundane tasks still need to be done and someone doing them without any fuss or fanfare is a Godsend.

Step Three

Start jobs that you can do well and have time to finish. Don't leave the job half done or damage anything while you do it. Someone who starts a load of laundry but leaves it sitting in the washer mildewing isn't being helpful.

Step Four

Respect their time. Don't stay for longer than 20 minutes unless you're asked to. Even long jobs can be broken up so that you're not overstaying your welcome. Start the load of laundry, then tell them you have an errand to run and you'll be back in an hour to put them in the dryer. Come back just like you promised (even if they said you didn't need to) to put the laundry over. Then say you need to make a call from home and you'll be back to help fold the dry clothes in a little while. Come back the third time and fold them and put them away and talk with them while you work. But don't stay the entire two and a half hours it takes from start to finish. People need time alone to cry and to heal. And yes this will be inconvenient for you. But this isn't about you. It's about someone in need.

Likewise, don't show up at the crack of dawn or stay past dinnertime unless they specifically invite you to do so. Some people might not want to be alone late at night and want the company, but most people need to be able to wind down without company around.

Step Five

Know when to stop. Some people are ready to return to their daily tasks after a few weeks. Some are still adjusting for months. Whether the missing child has returned or not is a big factor in how soon parents move forward with their lives, but so is the parent's personality. Even parents whose children are found after a single night can need help and even professional counseling. So pay attention to the subtle cues that let you know they still need your help or alternately, are ready to start doing this particular job on their own again.

How to Involve the Media When a Child is Missing

by **jdds08**

When children are missing, involving the media is a powerful tool in drawing attention to the case. Keeping the story in front of the media and the public eye often plays a crucial role in reuniting the missing children with their families.

Things You'll Need

- Pictures of the child/children
- Poster containing information
- Designated spokesperson
- Local and National Media contact information

Create a poster of each child with all relevant information regarding the missing child on it. The poster should have recent pictures of the child, circumstances surrounding the disappearance, a physical description, a description of what the child was last seen wearing, where the child was last seen, contact information and reward information on it.

Step Two

Designate a spokesperson to deal with the media in regards to the missing child or children.

Step Three

Show the poster to the lead law enforcement agency on the case and ask them to approve the information on the poster. There are some facts in a case that law enforcement do not want to be made public.

Step Four

Make at least two dozen copies of the poster to hand out to media agencies.

Step Five

Contact all local television news stations and local radio stations. Fax, e-mail or drop off posters of the missing child or children to all of the media outlets available to you. Once you have contacted all of the local media, begin to contact national media agencies.

Step Six

Set up a time and place for a news conference. The parents of the missing child should be the ones to meet with the media at this point. Stick to the facts and don't let the media introduce speculation during the conference. Hold press conferences as often as possible. Make sure to have a supply of fresh posters featuring the missing child or children on hand for the press conference.

Step Seven

Agree to and attend any interviews about the missing child or children that media personalities request.

Step Eight

Continue to have the designated spokesperson contact the media with updates that are approved by law enforcement regarding the missing child or children.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5199142_involve-media-child-missing.html

How to Help Search For a Missing Person

by cyclegirl98

Right now I have a regular eight hour work day, but at some point I would like to pursue another interest I have. That interest is doing volunteer work to look for missing people. For some reason this topic fascinates me. Not in a morbid way, but just in the fact that someone can totally disappear off the face of the earth and no one saw a thing, or so they claim. I feel for these families that are currently searching for a loved one. There are too many families dealing with this. If it were your husband, wife or child wouldn't you want everyone out looking - even people you don't know?

Things You'll Need:

time

a need to volunteer

sympathy for families dealing with this kind of loss

Step One

Contact Texas EquuSearch. Offer to help volunteer to look for a missing person. Searches are done by this team in many cities across the North American continent . Tim Miller is the director of this search and recovery team and has his own tragic story which caused him to want to help others this way. I have placed Tim's website in the resources section. The phone number is (877)270-9500. Visit Tim's website and click "Get Involved".

Step Two

If you can't participate on a search mission for Texas Equusearch, offer to make a donation instead. This will help keep Tim and his team in funds for their search efforts. They have located many, many people because people care enough to donate.

Step Three

Implement the Code Adam Alert system in your workplace if applicable. The specifications for this can be found in the resource section below. Listen for Code Adam alerts in places like Wal-Mart, malls and other large department stores. This is very important. A description of the child will be announced during an alert. Drop what you're doing and help look for this child! If it were your child, that is what you would want to have happen. If everyone gets involved during a Code Adam Alert, there is a good chance someone who is trying to take a child will not make it out of the store with that child.

Step Four

Contact the Center for Missing and Exploited Children listed below. There you will see various branch offices that you can contact to find out what you need to do to volunteer for a search.

Step Five

Volunteer with the Red Cross and sign up for state and national disaster services. Many people go missing during times of disaster as was the case with hurricanes Katrina and Ike.

Step Six

Contact your local law enforcement office to find out when searches will be held for missing persons in your area.

Resources

- [Texas EquuSearch](#)
- [Code Adam](#)
- [Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)
- [American Red Cross](#)

Find this article at http://www.ehow.com/how_4555699_search-missing-person.html

How to Support Siblings of a Child Who is Missing

By klnygaard

For most, the concept of child abduction is very difficult to comprehend. If you are a parent or family member of a child who has been abducted, the feeling of disbelief, terror, anxiety, sadness and even rage can be overwhelming. A parent of a child who has been abducted will experience a wide range of feelings and at varying degrees. Adults can struggle with these feelings and find it very difficult to cope. Parents may even find it difficult to manage small day to day tasks due to feeling overwhelmed with emotion. A sibling of a child who has been abducted also has a varying array of emotions. Parents of a child who is abducted often do not know how to inform their other children of the crisis. In addition, the parents may have difficulty dealing with the siblings due to their own debilitating feelings; family and friends may have difficulty in knowing how to handle the situation with the siblings. It is important to know that siblings of a child who has been abducted need information, support and guidance as well.

Step One

While it may be difficult to know exactly what to do or what to say to a child who has had a sibling abducted, it is important to try. There is not a known perfect way to respond; however, it is known that ignoring the child may cause further problems. Siblings may be ignored due to lack of time. All time and energy is being placed on finding the missing child and on consoling the parents. Siblings often find themselves alone and very frightened. The first way to help support a sibling is to pay attention to them. If you are not able, or comfortable talking about the abduction, then talk about the child's school day or favorite toy or even watch a T.V. show with them. Any of these actions will help them to know and feel they are not alone. In a situation where there are multiple siblings, understand that they may not know how to comfort each other. They may not even talk to each other about the abduction due to fear, sadness or lack of ability in voicing their feelings. To support siblings, make sure they all feel like they are supported by others.

Step Two

Children who have a sibling who has been abducted often are not informed of the situation. This is often due to fear of saying or doing the wrong thing or fear of not knowing what to say. In addition, even if a child is informed, they may not understand the entire concept. They may also not understand all the terminology. It has been noted in a book written by siblings of a child who was abducted (see link below), that many of them were not told what was happening. They knew something was wrong but were not told what the situation was. They were consumed with seeing their parents grieve, having media and police in the house and many people all around. Siblings need to be informed. The information that is shared and how it is shared is dependent on the age of the sibling. The parents should be asked if they would like help informing the siblings. Whether it is the parents or another informing the siblings of the abduction, it is important to remember to explain some of the terminology. Use easy to understand words. It may also be helpful to explain not only what has happened, but what will happen. It is a good idea to explain why the police and media will be present. It is also good to explain how a search is performed.

Step Three

A person who grieves can experience extreme emotions. Some of these emotions are anxiety, fear, sadness, rage, powerlessness and hopelessness. A child can also experience these emotions. The difference is usually noted in behavior. Depending on the child's age or developmental stage, the behaviors may include: withdrawal from friends and social activities or activities that were once found to be enjoyable; regression in behavior such as development of tantrums or defiance; separation anxiety noted in not leaving the immediate vicinity of parents; drop in grades or performance in extracurricular activities; or depressive writing (letters, stories, poems or blogs). It is important to help a sibling acknowledge and express their feelings. Many times, a sibling will not know what to do or how to express themselves. Offering a sibling the opportunity to talk is helpful. Offering them several people or support systems is encouraged. Help them write down a list of names and numbers they can call. Have them place the list in a spot that is easy to reach and view. If the phone list is visible, they will be more likely to use the list. It is also helpful to offer links and numbers to support groups. Suggesting a children's support group like Rainbows, or even a therapist, can be a great way to offer support.

Step Four

The issue of fear also needs to be addressed. The sibling may feel fearful that they will be taken too. They may be fearful that their sibling will never return. They may be fearful that their family will never be the same. They may also feel that their parents will never be o.k. again. If you feel you are not capable of handling this issue, suggest professional help. If possible, try to talk directly about these fears. Remember that a child may not admit to these fears, but they are probably occurring.

Step Five

Try to remember that a sibling of a child who was abducted is still a child. Playing and having fun are still necessary. Many children feel guilty about having fun when their parents are in crisis or if they know their missing sibling can not have fun. It is important to help encourage play and fun activities. Help decrease some of the guilt by engaging in something fun like going for a bike ride, to the park or to a movie. The guilt may also be a very overwhelming feeling in many situations. The child may feel guilty that they are safe, but their sibling is not. Supporting a child should include dealing with this issue.

Step Six

You can support a sibling of a missing child by giving them your wisdom, patience, understanding, time, love and hugs. Hugs are a great sense of comfort for many. It is important to check in often, as they may want your help but not seek it out. It is important to acknowledge their day to day activities as well as successes. It is important to validate that the world is safe for them, that they are still a part of the family and that they are loved. It is important to encourage the belief that they can survive.

Resources

- ["What about Me?"](#)
- [Team Hope](#)
- [Support to the whole family](#)

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5212858_support-siblings-child-missing.html

How to Help a Family Whose Child is Abducted

by klyngaard

The Amber Plan was originated in 1996 as a legacy to Amber Hagerman. Amber was a bright, beautiful little girl who was kidnapped and murdered while riding her bike in her hometown in Texas. The town was shocked and wanted to reach the community to help prevent anything this tragic in the future. The people of this hometown called local radio stations requesting they put out alerts. In April 2003, President Bush signed the Amber Alert legislation, making it a national program. Code Amber is now a law across the country. Enacting the Amber alert is not only helpful, but necessary in some cases. There are other things to help a family who believes their child is missing.

Step One

If there is a fear that a child is missing, begin by searching the area. If the child is small, begin with the house checking closets, cabinets, under tables, in the back yard, garage, piles of laundry, in and under beds, inside large appliances, and inside vehicles, including trunks or wherever a child may crawl or hide. If the child is older, include calls and/or visits to friends and neighbors. Also include local places like the school or park. If possible recruit other friends or neighbors to help search. Also ask all the neighbors and other kids in the neighborhood when the last time they saw the child. Help the family recruit people to look, help with the search or help make phone calls.

Step Two

If you are in a store, mall, or gated amusement park, help find the manager. A manager has the authority to call a Code Adam. A Code Adam is a procedure where all entrances and exits will be locked. The local police are then usually notified by the manager. The local police will respond to assist in the effort to find and return the child safely.

Step Three

If, after searching all potential locations the child still has not been found, then call the immediate local law enforcement agency. Help the family to be prepared to provide child's name, date of birth, height, weight, and any other unique identifiers such as eyeglasses, braces and what clothing he or she was wearing.

Step Four

When the call is made, inform the family to state that they want the child's name and identifying information be immediately entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Missing Person File. By law, the police have 2 hours after initial contact to report to the NCIC. After reporting the child missing to law enforcement, call the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at the toll-free telephone number: 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678).

Step Five

You can then help the family by staying with them to offer support. You can also help with keeping the other children in the family occupied or calm. Other calls to other family member may also need to be made. Try to help do the other tasks that need to be completed but family will be unable to complete at the time. Cooking or obtaining food may also be helpful, as eating is usually the last thing the family will be thinking about.

Step Six

Remember that the family is in a state of shock. They will need continued nurturing and support. Continually seek to offer assistance, time, love and support. Also, help spread the word. Use all your social networks to get out pictures and information to allow others to help as well.

Step Seven

Lastly, help the family obtain professional help or support systems. Professional help is often important to help with the overwhelming feelings being experienced. In addition, support groups are helpful as they are a group of people who have or are experiencing a situation that is similar. There are some resources below.

Resources

- [Newsletter and support group for parents who have lost a child](#)
- [Children and adult alert index](#)
- [Angel's that care](#)
- [National Center for Missing Children](#)

Find this article at:http://www.ehow.com/how_5204263_support-family-whos-child-missing.html

Chapter 2 Tips for Parents

How to Keep Children Safe While Letting Them Be Kids

by Shirley Philbrick

Keeping children safe while still allowing them to be kids is a tough task. As parents, we want to protect them and let no harm ever come their way. However, there must be balance in keeping a child safe and still allowing them the freedom they need to become healthy, well adjusted adults.

Step One

Monitor what young children and adolescents watch on television and websites that they view on the internet. Work together to find programming that is not only age appropriate, but also fun, for children. Use parental controls for those times when you may not be nearby to see what they are seeing.

Step Two

Be fully cognizant of your child's maturity level. Be honest with yourself, and your kids, when making decisions about whether to allow a young child, adolescent, or teenager to participate in select activities.

Step Three

Get to know your kids' friends. This is most important in the pre-teen and teenage years. Encourage them to bring friends home and pay attention to how they interact. Getting a feel for the friends they choose will give valuable insight into the activities your kids may participate in: both good and bad.

Step Four

Take part in your children's stages of development. Give them room to grow, but be aware of the choices they may make. Realize that adolescents and teens, especially, desire higher levels of independence yet they often are fearless and see themselves as invincible. This fearlessness may initiate participation in less desirable activity or non awareness when in a potentially dangerous situation.

Step Five

Teach children from a young age basic safety precautions. All kids should know emergency numbers, their own phone number and address, how to dial 9-1-1, and basic awareness of potential dangers that may occur in their environment. Older kids should be taught responsibility and expectations that you have for times when you aren't around.

Step Six

Temper your parental desire to smother a child with protective measures. Instilling fear in a kid will only create an adult that will be afraid of life.

Tips & Warnings

- Remember that you should give them roots to ground them, but they still need wings to fly.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5205733_keep-children-safe-letting-kids.html

How to Use a Cell Phone to Keep Your Child Safe

by **Priscilla Benfield**

Keeping your child safe is a priority for every parent. Modern technology makes it easier for parents to keep tabs on their children. Cell phones can be a valuable tool for parents to use for older children who want a little bit more freedom. Adding a cell phone to your family plan is easy to do and you can control how the phone is used.

For the child who walks a few blocks home from school having a cell phone is a safety net just in case they need it. The child can use it to check in with you and it is great for the parent to be able to check in with a forgetful child.

With the necessity of two income households, a parent is not always able to be there after school for the middle school aged child. When you give your child a cell phone to use, you are making it easier to get in touch with them when you feel the need to. If a child is running late or misses a ride, he has a cell phone to call for help. Here's some tips for using a cell phone for your child.

Things You'll Need

- family plan
- insurance for the phone
- upfront rules for use

Step One

Choose your phone carefully. Many phones come with features like cameras and Internet access. Text messages and Internet cost extra. Most phones come with cameras but they do not have to. If you would prefer your child to not have a camera, purchase a phone without that feature.

Step Two

Think about what purpose the phone will be used for. Basically you want to be able to have contact with your child and for them to be able to call you or someone else if needed. Texting is optional and only include it if you can control how much they will text. Going over allotted texting time can cost big money.

Step Three

Kids will be kids. Get insurance on the phone. Even though you stress the importance of being careful with the phone, kids can be clumsy. Get insurance and make sure you know what it covers.

Step Four

Talk to your child upfront about how you expect the phone to be used. Make it clear that you are getting them the phone so that you will always be able to be in contact with them. Many tweens have phones because everyone else does. This is for their safety and let them know that if you call you expect them to answer, or else.

Tips & Warnings

- Know exactly what your plan covers.
- Different carriers have plans specifically for use by tweens.
- You can pay a flat fee and have control over what numbers your child can access.
- Plans can be personalized according to your needs.

- Warning! Give a tween a cell phone without limits and the bill can easily resemble the national debt in no time at all. Protect yourself by thoroughly checking out any plan you sign up for.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5196323_use-phone-keep-child-safe.html

How to Make a Child Safe When They Are Home Alone

by georgelarson

When it is determined that a child is old enough, by the laws in your state, and mature enough to stay home by themselves there are ways to prepare your child and make them safe. It does not matter if the child is home alone after school, while you are away from the house for an evening out or you are just running an errand. Here are some obvious, and not so obvious, items that should be discussed and practiced to make your child safe when they are home alone.

Step One

Knowledge is Power for Your Child's Safety

- Sit down with your child and write out a list of phone numbers they can call if there is an emergency. Include 911, close neighbors and your trusted friends who they also know. Put this list by every phone in the house.
- It is easy to panic in an emergency so include your home phone number and address to the list of phone numbers.
- Put together a first aid kit and explain why each item is being included. Show your child how to use the items and talk about what they should do to follow up after caring for the injury.
- Place a flashlight and batteries in each level of the house. Let your child decide where to put it to help them remember. Show them how to change the batteries.
- Talk about and practice how to protect themselves in case of a fire. Stay low to avoid smoke, tuck and roll if clothing is on fire and practice the fire escape route from each level of the house.

Step Two

Set Up Safety Rules

Set specific rules your child will need to follow while they are at home by themselves. If the child cannot follow the rules they should not be left home alone. Make your child aware that you are still in charge, even at a distance.

- Never let anyone into the house. Do not go near the doors or windows when someone is knocking or ringing the bell. If they do not leave, call one of the emergency numbers.
- Screen phone calls with caller I.D. or let all calls go to the answering machine. Know who is on the line before answering it. If screening the phone calls is not an option, do not tell the caller the parents are not home. Pretend to call for Mom or Dad and then say they can't come to the phone. Take the name and phone number and tell the caller they will call them back.
- Limit the type of cooking depending on your child's knowledge and age. If cooking on the stove is not an option leave microwave style food for them to prepare or a variety of snacks that do not need to be cooked.
- Limit friends from coming over. Remember that friends will not know the safety measures you have in place.

Step Three

Safety Responsibilities for the Parents

- Make sure all smoke detectors are working.
- Secure, in the gun safe, all firearms in the house.
- Put all adult beverages away.
- Locate an alternative destination for when your child is walking home and is uncomfortable going in to your house.
- Consider installing a security system. This will allow the child to push one button if there is an emergency and, also, when a child comes home to an empty house after school, they know that there is no one in the house.
- Check in with your child often. If you are going to be running late make arrangements accordingly.
- Talk with your child about their day when you return home. Talk about what activities are happening the next day so everyone knows who is expected home and at what time.
- Provide a list of 'things to do' for your child. This may include homework, household chores, etc.

Step Four

Safety Responsibilities for Latchkey Children

- Do not let anyone know you are going home to an empty house.
- Carry the house key in a safe and hidden place.
- Do not take a short-cut home. Keep on main streets and go directly home. If they feel someone is following them turn back and go to the school to get help.
- Do not enter the house if there is something that is not right like the door ajar or a broken window. Go directly to the pre-arranged designated place for assistance.

Tips & Warnings

- When you are away from the house and your child is home alone use these suggestions to make your child safe at home. You are the adult and you are still in charge, even if you are not home. These safety suggestions are to keep your child safe so encourage them and praise their self reliance when your rules are followed.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5202882_make-child-safe-home-alone.html

How to Teach Your Child About Strangers

by Sara-Jean Fisher

Teach Your Child About Strangers

The old cliché that strangers are lurking around every corner to kidnap our children has long been discarded as we learn that most abductions actually happen at the hands of someone close to the child's family. But that certainly doesn't mean that strangers pose no danger to your child; on the contrary, strangers can and do kidnap, harm, and assault children every day. Teaching your child about what a stranger is, how to handle a stranger, and how to recognize a dangerous situation can greatly reduce the risk of your child being abducted or hurt by a stranger, and help your child apply that knowledge to other potentially harmful situations. Read on to learn more about how to teach your child about strangers.

Step One

Teach Your Child What a Stranger Is

Your child may have a very dramatic idea of what a stranger looks like in their mind; they likely picture a stranger as someone who looks scary, acts frightening and speaks with a certain demeanor. Unfortunately, children don't realize that the most dangerous stranger is the one that can easily gain our trust, because there's nothing frightening about them. Explain to your child that a stranger does not look or act any specific way and anyone that your child meets on the street should be considered a stranger.

Older children may be able to grasp the concept that strangers are “too” nice – something seems eerily perfect about them, and their story makes too much sense – which is a great way to teach an older child about instinct. Explain to your child that if something doesn't feel right about the person they are talking too, or perhaps something feels too right, then trust your instincts and keep on walking.

Step Two

Explain That Your Child Should Never “Help” Adults

Naïve children are often duped into “helping” strangers, because we are raised to believe we should help anyone who is in trouble. Children don't yet possess the ability to tell a legitimate situation from staged – in fact, some adults don't, either – but what children can easily learn is that an adult would never ask a child for help with anything. Adults will always ask adults for help, and children can ask adults for help, but an adult has no business asking any child for help with anything. If an adult asks your child for assistance with something, teach your child that this is a sign that something is very wrong, and it's time to seek help and get away.

Also go over the common scenarios that strangers will use with children to gain their “help” and trust; searching for a lost puppy (often with a leash in hand), needing directions somewhere, needing the child to help with a broken-down vehicle and looking at something inside the stranger's vehicle or home. These are all signs that the stranger is attempting to abduct the child; remind your child that if an adult approaches them with any of these situations, the best thing to do is tell the stranger you can't help them and run.

Step Three

Teach Your Child Not to Ever Accept Anything From a Stranger

Children, especially younger children, are often enticed by offers of free candy or toys. Explain to your child that it's okay to accept these things only when you are present with him or her and you give them permission to do so. If a stranger ever offers your child anything when an adult is not present with them, they should never accept the offer. The candy or toy could have something in it that's specifically meant to harm the child. Also, teach your child to never walk away with a stranger, go into a house or another building, or enter a car with a stranger who promises a toy, candy, or anything else if the child goes with them. Tell your child to simply say “no, thank you,” and immediately leave the situation.

Step Four

Tell Your Child to Find Help if They Feel Scared

If your child ever faces one of these situations, they should be taught to seek help from the nearest trusted adult immediately. Simply walking away from a stranger who is intent on abducting or harming your child could cause the stranger to take pursuit, and render the child helpless. If they ever feel scared or even unsure of a situation, they should head towards the closest “safe place” they know, like a neighbor's house, their school, or the police station. Even a well-lit and busy store is a safe spot for a child to enter, where they can tell the clerk to call the police immediately and stay inside until either the police or you arrive to take them home.

Most important, explain to your child that if they ever feel like a situation is unsafe, they should trust their instincts and leave the situation immediately. Explaining what instinct is may seem difficult, but we are born with the natural ability to sense a perceived danger – and you should teach your child how to recognize these feelings and respond to them. Teach your child the concept of safe, not sorry, and to realize, respond, and report any stranger that makes them feel uncomfortable as soon as possible.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5202606_teach-child-strangers.html

How to Balance Your Child's Safety With Their Growing Independence

by **thebigscott**

As parents, it's our responsibility to keep our children safe. But it's also our responsibility to guide them into becoming healthy happy adults. And adults need to be independent. We need to strike a balance between keeping our children out of harm's way and allowing them to have opportunities to learn and grow into independent adults. Here are some ideas that might help.

Step One

Maintain an awareness of the risks.

Get to know your neighbors and the families that your child spends time with. Check online for know sex offenders in your area. Keep your computers in a public area of the home and check your child's online activities periodically. Knowing the risks can help you avoid problems.

Step Two

Don't let your fears take over.

This one is hard. Now that you know the dangers involved, it's natural to want to avoid the problem altogether and not let your child do anything dangerous. But that isn't the best answer. There are drawbacks to everything, even to trying to keep your kids safe. Remember that your child won't always be a child. They need to learn how to make good decisions on their own.

Step Three

Let them practice the skills you'd like them to have as adults, but do it in a more controlled environment.

You wouldn't tell your child that they were never allowed to learn to swim. But you wouldn't teach them to swim by throwing them into the middle of the Atlantic, either. You'd start small, in an environment that allows you to step in and help if they got into real trouble.

The same principle holds true for learning to be independent. When the time comes that your kids are interested in doing things like spending a few hours home alone, spending the night at a friend's house, or going to the movies with their friends you need to find that same balance.

Maybe your child could be home alone with a neighbor checking in periodically. Maybe they could go to the movies and sit with friends while you sit in a different part of the theatre. Maybe they could postpone their sleep over until you've gotten to know the parents that will be supervising them. Look for a middle ground that will allow you to keep them safe but gives them the opportunity to learn how to make decisions and plan ahead.

Step Four

Look for your child's natural strengths and weaknesses.

Some kids are ready to stay home alone for a half hour when they're 10. Some aren't ready for several more years. The best way for you to decide if your child is ready is to get to know your child. Pay attention to how well they follow the rules at home and in school, how distracted they get when the TV is on, and how much judgement they show when they're with their friends. A child who has trouble with following directions or who tends to forget important assignments may need more time.

Step Five

Practice.

It sounds stupid, but it's very important. Go to your bedroom for an hour or so and tell your child that they are in charge. Have them behave as if you aren't home. They should lock the door, let the answering machine pick up calls, not answer the door for salesmen or delivery people, and not use the stove.

Practicing and role playing will give your child a chance to learn new skills and get used to their new independence and responsibilities. It will also give you a chance to learn what problems your child is likely to have when home alone. You can use what you learn to help your child develop the skills needed to handle those problems in the future.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5212693_balance-childs-safety-growing-independence.html

How to Teach Your Children to Protect Themselves from Abduction

by **Janet Ford**

There are things children of all ages and sizes can do to increase the odds that they will not become a victim of child abduction. As much as you will want to be, parents are not always at their child's side to protect them. Give your child ideas of things they can do to protect themselves.

Things You'll Need

- Time
- Safety Whistle

Step One

Take the time to sit down with your child and discuss safety. Make sure to keep everything age appropriate and ask often if your child understands everything that you are saying and invite them to ask as many questions as necessary. Have these discussions regularly as your child grows.

Step Two

Define the word 'stranger' for your child. If your child is very young, you will need to specify that the only way someone stops being a stranger is when YOU tell your child they are no longer a stranger. This will alleviate confusion. Emphasize the fact that not all strangers are bad or mean them harm but by being a stranger, you don't know that yet and it's their job to stay clear of them until you approve of them.

As your child grows older, teach them to always be wary of strangers and not to allow distractions to permit them to lose focus.

Step Three

Role play. This can help your child remember safety rules and ideas in a fun way that is less intimidating. Make it even more memorable by including their friends in the role playing. As you role play, new questions and scenarios may come up and you can advise your child in how to best react to those different situations. Role play examples of what an abductor may say to them. This will help desensitize your child from the shock factor the potential child predator may be counting on using.

Step Four

Teach them that yelling, kicking and screaming are acceptable. Child predators are less likely to abduct or harm a child who is causing a public scene. Let them know that they should NEVER go quietly as the stranger will likely request.

Step Five

Teach them to avoid walking by strangers. Walk on the other side of the street if necessary. Also instruct them to avoid walking by parked vehicles as they could easily be grabbed unexpectedly.

Step Six

Give your child a shrill whistle to wear around their neck so they can whistle an alert when they are scared. This is a cheap investment but one that can prove to be priceless. Instruct them on when to use, and not use, their whistle. This may be a good time to read the book 'The boy who cried wolf'.

Step Seven

Show your child that, in many vehicles, you can actually kick out the tail lights from inside the trunk. If you kick out a tail light, you may be able to get your hand out of that hole and flag for help. Abducted people have been saved by doing this. Show your child where this is located.

Step Eight

Teach your child early on that there are certain parts of their bodies that are sacred and that nobody has the right to touch or look at. Also instruct them that they should ALWAYS tattletale on anyone who violates them in these ways.

Tips & Warnings

- Make sure your children know their full name, address, phone number and first/last names of their parents.
- You are welcome to use my avatar featuring missing child, Lindsey Baum, no questions asked if you wish to help get her photo in front of more people. Help bring Lindsey home!!
- Always take your children's concerns seriously.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5190348_teach-children-protect-themselves-abduction.html

How to Teach Internet Safety to Kids

by Sara-Jean Fisher

How to Teach Internet Safety to Kids

Teaching your child about Internet safety is an important part of keeping him or her safe while they are online. While you may already have taken measures to block certain abilities(?) or restrict your child's time spent online, helping your child understand why you do these things and what they can do to further their safety, is also essential to Internet safety. Read on to learn more on how you can teach Internet safety to kids.

Step One

Show Your Child How to Use the Internet

When your child is first introduced to the Internet, they can be overwhelmed by the power it gives them. This can cause your child to make dangerous mistakes and learn from them only after the damage from those mistakes has become readily apparent. The first part of teaching Internet safety to your child should include showing them how to use the Internet, explain why he or she should or shouldn't visit certain websites, talk to strangers or use chat rooms and so on.

To make it easier for younger children to navigate the Internet safely, find their favorite websites and create a list of bookmarks for your child under your "Favorites". This will allow your child to safely surf online by allowing them to choose from a "pre-approved" list of websites and reduce the risk of your child stumbling onto an inappropriate website.

Step Two

Teach Your Child That Predators Pose as Other Kids

At this point, your child has likely already learned all about strangers and how to act when they come across one. This knowledge can be applied to the Internet, as well. Teach your child about online strangers and predators, making sure to emphasize that just because someone says they are another kid, it doesn't mean they are. Sometimes, adults pretend to be kids so they can gain a child's trust and then get information out of them that they normally wouldn't share with strangers. Teaching your child to treat everyone as a stranger – unless they already know them well offline, like a school friend – will help them keep their personal, identifying information concealed.

Be careful when explaining this, especially to younger children; you could accidentally instill a fear of the Internet in your child. Emphasize to your child that the risk for being found can be decreased to almost nothing by practicing Internet safety every single time they sign online.

Step Three

Explain What Information Should Never Be Revealed

Everyone who has ever used the Internet has likely revealed personal information that they would normally never share with strangers; many of us have done it without even realizing it. Children are even more likely than adults to reveal information that should never be shared online, especially since they don't understand how certain pieces of seemingly useless information can actually help a stranger find them offline. Obviously, your child should be taught not to discuss their basic personal information – first and last name, date of birth, address, phone number, and so on – but you also need to explain the importance of keeping other, seemingly innocuous information concealed, as well. Things like the name of your child's school, their teachers' names, the sports teams they play for, where they practice and any extra-curricular activities they participate in can give away where a predator can find them instantly. Stress the importance of keeping all information about your child confidential, and to never discuss any names or locations of anything they do with anyone online that they don't already know in real life.

Step Four

Make Your Child's Social Networking Profiles Private

Believe it or not, some online predators are using websites like MySpace and Facebook to track down and befriend children, gaining access to the most sensitive information, and using it to find intended targets. Even if your child doesn't reveal any of their personal information on their profiles themselves, comments from friends can give online predators all the information they need. For this reason, you should require your child to keep any social networking profile that they maintain completely private, and request that they use your e-mail address as their log-in name. That way, any friend requests or messages can be seen and tracked by you and you will have the final approval on whether or not an individual can be friended by your child – which will give that new “friend” access to your child's otherwise private profile.

Step Five

Tell Your Child to Report Any Suspicious Online Activity to You

If your child ever feels uncomfortable while talking to others online, or comes across a website that makes them feel uneasy, tell them to report what they find immediately to you or another adult. This will allow you to review the situation and take any appropriate action necessary. If an individual makes suggestive or offensive comments to your child while they are chatting with him or her, for example, you can save a record of the conversation and report it to authorities, if it's deemed necessary. This will also encourage your child to turn to you for guidance whenever they run into trouble online, while simultaneously keeping you informed of any problems that arise so you can better protect your child while they are online.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5212430_teach-internet-safety-kids.html

How to Keep Your Child Safe from Predators

By Ask Lucy

Keeping one's child safe from predators has to be one of the biggest concerns of parents. We have all seen child abduction, kidnapping and child assault stories on the news and feared for our own children. It is important to remember that while these are heart wrenching and traumatic, they do not happen to most children. While it is a parent's job to raise and prepare their families for life, it is also good to remember that raising self-confident kids, free of anxiety is also important. Unless you plan to tie your child to you, there are no guarantees in life. It is possible to limit your child's risk and exposure to predators.

Things You'll Need:

Awareness

Continued commitment

Step One

Know the care givers who are supervising your child. This includes teachers, sitters, babysitters, family members, coaches, carpool drivers, troop leaders and neighbors. When your child is not under your supervision, you entrust them to the care, decision making and judgments of another person. Will the neighbor who you thought was watching your child leave the house and your child alone with an old girlfriend? Will the childcare worker allow adolescent helpers you are unfamiliar with supervise your child in the bathroom? Are you comfortable that their decisions will keep your child safe?

Step Two

Know who is in your neighborhood. See if there is a neighborhood watch program. Talk to local law enforcement about the crime/gang activity and look up registered sex offenders.

Step Three

Teach your child age appropriate rules for contact with strangers. Whether it is a Stranger Danger Program at school or simply talking to an adolescent about meeting people online - make sure your kids understand how to treat contact with strangers. Set rules and expectations about approaching, talking with and giving information to people your kids do not know. Follow through with consequences when rules are not followed.

Step Four

Teach your child the buddy-system. Children going to the restroom or getting snacks at the movies, soccer game, school should go with a trusted adult until they are old enough to make decisions to follow the rules and have reasonable judgment. When kids are old enough to travel in pairs, they should learn to do tasks and errands quickly and without loitering.

Step Five

Make sure you know where your child is, or who is supervising them at all times. This means you should have the name, address and phone number of where your child is expected to be and/or who they are to be with. If they are on a play date at an amusement park, or at a birthday party at the bowling alley- make sure you have the full name, home address and phone number of the adult in charge of your child and that you have met them and they understand your rules.

Step Six

During transition times, make sure you are in some kind of communication with your child before and/or after transitions. For example, if your child walks home from school, have them call or text you when they get home.

Step Seven

Use a cell phone for safety at a practical age. Preschoolers do not need a cell phone as they are in the direct care of an adult at all times. Older school age children may indeed need the use of a cell phone for safety at times. Consider soccer practice. Some single parents may need to leave a child at one field while picking up another child from school or a lesson at a different location. It may be practical to leave a cell phone with your child if a trusted adult cannot take direct responsibility for your child for even a little bit.

Step Eight

Monitor your child's use of the internet and social network sites. Predators use social networking and the internet to target children. If you have set your child's e-mail up as a child or teen and noticed their spam is much higher than yours, it may be because predators use software to search for child profiles to target them with inappropriate material. It may be necessary to purchase software to filter your child's account or switch e-mail servers. Use the internet with your child and make sure you have their user name and password to any e-mail and online accounts they have.

Step Nine

Talk to your child. Find ways to connect with them even with busy schedules and through tough adolescent years. Keeping an open, positive parent-child (not friend) relationship will help your child understand healthy relationships. If you sense a problem in your relationship with your child take steps to find out how to resolve it.

Tips & Warnings

Consider your area and practices of most people you respect in your town. If most of the mom's you respect let their 10 year olds walk to the store using a buddy system, that may be the best practice for you. Avoid sending the message "the world is dangerous, therefore I should be afraid," instead aim for "although the world has dangers, I have skills to keep myself safe." Ask questions. Use your voice to get your questions answered even if you are questioning another mom you trust.

There are no guarantees. Even a GPS locator and video camera will not protect your child. (It may send the message that they live in an unsafe world and need mom and dad to survive) Every parent must make the best informed decisions they can for their family.

Resources

[National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5205622_keep-child-safe-predators.html

How to Keep Kids Safe At Disneyland

By **Mitestarossa**

I used Disneyland in the title, but these tips can be used at any outdoor event where you might become separated from your children or loved ones.

Step 1

BRIGHT COLORED CLOTHING - Dress your children in brightly colored clothes. It is great to be able to look over and pick out your child in a line of 50 kids in one moment because he has a lime green shirt on. Leave fashion for another outing, safety is key at Disneyland.

Step 2

GROUP CLOTHING - If possible have your entire family or group wear matching clothing. This helps kids and adults recognize who they are with if your group is large.

Step 3

CELL PHONES - Everyone that is old enough to go to the bathroom or wait in line for a ride by themselves should have a cell phone. Of course, you only need one phone for each set of people that are breaking away from the group, so if you leave your 10 year old twins in line, leave them at least one cell phone and tell them never to separate for any reason.

Step 4

TRACKING DEVICES - There are many useful parent/child tracking devices available these days. Many are less than \$300.00. Some track small areas, but others are based on GPS and can track everywhere. If you have a little one that might get loose or a disabled child or adult, a tracking device might work for you.

Step 5

HARNESS LITTLE ONES - A harness with a leash may not look desirable but it is worth it when you are in a large crowd. There are places at Disneyland and other amusement parks where crowds move in together quickly and children holding your hand or walking right next to you are suddenly pushed away by the crowd. If you have a new walker, then a harness system is for you.

Find this article at:http://www.ehow.com/how_4801188_keep-kids-safe-disneyland.html

Chapter 3 Parents with Young Children

How to Teach a Child to Dial 9-1-1

by Sara-Jean Fisher

Young children can be taught to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency, which can help your family survive if something ever goes wrong. Teaching your child to dial 9-1-1 is also a crucial life skill that will stick with them for the rest of their life and prepare them to handle any emergency situation that they may come across. Read on to learn how you can teach your child to dial 9-1-1.

Step One

Make Sure Your Child Knows Their Basic Information

While children as young as 3 years old can be taught to dial 9-1-1 for emergency situations; your child must be able to recognize numbers, and relay, at the very least, their home address to others when asked before you can attempt to teach them how to do this. If you haven't taught your child your home address yet, visit the link below for help and tips on how to do so.

It would also be helpful to teach your child their first and last name and home telephone number; although, this isn't necessarily as pertinent for a child to be able to summon help. Keep in mind that a young child may not be able to retain this much information; you will need to judge whether or not your child can remember and relay their personal information when asked. If you feel your child isn't capable of remembering so much information, teach them the bare necessities. In this case, that would simply be their home address.

Step Two

Explain What a Police Officer Is First

Children may grasp the concept of dialing 9-1-1 easily, but they need to understand when and why to do it, as well. If your child has yet to attend school, there's a good chance they have no idea what a policeman does, or why you should call one. Explain to your child that a policeman is a special kind of person who helps people when they are in trouble, like when someone is hurt or scared. Use pictures or books to show your child what a policeman looks like, so they know how to properly identify a police officer. This is not the time to mention that other people may dress up and pretend to be a police officer to hurt others; this would only confuse and scare your child, and could potentially cause them to avoid a police officer when they need their help.

Step Three

Discuss Scenarios Where 9-1-1 Should Be Called

Children may be overeager to contact a policeman, especially if they idolize them – and many children do. This is why it's imperative to not only explain when 9-1-1 should be called, but explain why you only call when these situations arise. Start by discussing simple scenarios where it's obvious that 9-1-1 should be dialed; for younger children, you may want to act out the situation so they know what to look for when determining whether or not they should call for help.

Examples of situations you can explain include: if someone they don't know tries to come inside the house; if a stranger is walking around the front or back yard; if there is a fire in the house; if mommy or daddy gets hurt, or can't talk, but they aren't sleeping (teach your child to try and wake a parent first); and of course, if mommy or daddy ever say to dial 9-1-1, even if they don't give a reason why.

You don't necessarily need to teach your child about when to dial 9-1-1 outside of the home, as an adult will likely be around to help and call 9-1-1 for them. You may want to also explain that if one of the above situations happen, the child should look for the nearest adult and ask them to call 9-1-1 for them. You can explain when and how to dial 9-1-1 when you are not at home to children as they get older and would likely face those situations, like when they begin to attend school. For now, it could be too much for your child to remember.

Step Four

Teach Children How to Dial 9-1-1

After your child is able to successfully relay their home address, teaching them to dial 9-1-1 is easy. Take a phone that is not connected to any service (you can unplug your portable phone from the wall, or use a corded phone that isn't plugged in for this purpose) and explain the different numbers on the phone and how they work to call other people. Then, point out the numbers “9” and “1.” Explain that these two numbers are the most important numbers on the phone, and they can be used to call a policeman or fireman for help. Show your child how to dial 9-1-1 by holding the phone up where they can see, and slowly pressing the numbers while you say them out loud. Repeat this example a few times, and then ask your child to show you how they can do it. By allowing your child to actually hold the family's house phone and try calling 9-1-1 themselves, you can ensure they are familiar with the process of dialing and know how to do it properly. Just be sure you have disconnected the phone, as mentioned before, to prevent either one of you from accidentally summoning help when you don't need it.

Step Five

Be Sure Your Child Understands What to Do After Dialing 9-1-1

Being able to successfully dial 9-1-1 is only the first part in teaching your child how to call for help. You also need to teach your child exactly what happens when they call. Teaching them how to relay as much information as they can to the dispatcher on the other end will ensure that the correct help is sent as fast as possible. As stated above, the very least your child should be able to do is say “I need help,” and give their home address.

To make sure your child knows how to relay information correctly, act out a call to 9-1-1. Have your child pick up the phone and dial the numbers, and then pretend to be the dispatcher by saying, “9-1-1, please state your emergency.” Encourage your child to say “Hi, my name is (name), and I need help. My address is (street number, street name, and city).” If your child is old enough to understand, also teach them to say what the emergency is – is the house on fire? Is mommy or daddy hurt? Is a stranger trying to break into the house? It's likely that once the dispatcher realizes a child is making the call, they will prompt the child to give this information, so go ahead and prompt your child to answer these questions when acting out the call. Hold “practice 9-1-1 calls” on a regular basis to keep the concept fresh in your child's mind.

Step Six

Push the Seriousness of Calling 9-1-1

Young children are liable to become fascinated with the concept of dialing 9-1-1 and summoning a police officer. To prevent accidental or “joke” calls, you should push the seriousness of calling for help when dialing 9-1-1. Explain to your child that 9-1-1 should only be dialed if there is a real emergency; otherwise, you could keep the police officer who responds from helping someone who truly needs it. Since young children likely won't be able to grasp the concept of something being illegal and how they can get in trouble with the law, relate the trouble they could get into for making a joke call to 9-1-1 to the method of punishment you typically use at home. For instance, if you practice time-out, tell your child that calling 9-1-1 for no reason will cause the police officer to put them in the time-out chair. This will discourage the child from using 9-1-1 for fun or inquisitive purposes and teach them they will be punished for playing around with the phone.

When explaining this, it is very important to remind children that using 9-1-1 for what they think may be a true emergency will never get them in trouble. Tell your child that if they think something is wrong and want to call 9-1-1, they will not get in trouble if they turn out to be wrong. A legitimate fear of emergency is always a good reason to call for help; explain that it's always better to be safe, rather than sorry. Otherwise, your child may be afraid to call for help when there is an emergency, out of fear that if they turn out to be wrong, they will be punished for making the call.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5212550_teach-child-dial.html

How to Teach Your Kids to Protect Themselves From Predators

by thebigscott

Most parents warn their kids not to go talk to strangers or get into a strange car. But in reality, most kids are abused or even abducted by people they know. So how do we teach them to protect themselves when we aren't around?

Step One

Talk openly to your kids about the fact that there are predators. You don't have to go into graphic detail. Simply tell them that a small number of adults have an illness in how their minds work. People with this illness might try to take kids away from their families or try to have sex with them even though it's unhealthy for children to have sex. Explain that it's not the child's fault. There is nothing a child can say or do to a healthy adult that will make that person want to abduct them or have sex with them. Tell them it's very important for children to let other adults know if anyone touches them in a way that makes them feel bad.

Step Two

Teach them to respond loudly. Predators depend on children feeling confused and ashamed by what is happening to them. Someone who is confused by an adult trying to get them in their car doesn't call for help. Someone who is ashamed of being molested doesn't want anyone to know what's going on so they keep quiet. So teach your kids to be very, very loud about an adult trying to get them into their car or about any touches that make them uncomfortable. For example, if your kid is spending the night at a friend's house and the father comes into their room at night, loudly shouting, "HEY! GET OUT OF MY BED!" will probably result in the friend's mother coming to investigate and/or the father pretending that he was just checking on your kid. The same thing holds true in any public area. Imagine the commotion if a child in a train station, at a mall, or on a bus starts shouting, "I DON'T WANT TO TOUCH YOUR...!" Security guards are trained to keep things calm and quiet and avoid publicity. Shouting the names of certain parts of our anatomy is going to draw immediate attention. The same holds true for abduction attempts. If someone is attempting to abduct your child from a subdivision or a shopping mall, the best defense is a very loud response. Shouting, "THIS MAN IS NOT MY FATHER!" or "I DON'T WANT TO GET IN YOUR CAR!" can draw a lot of attention that the predator doesn't want.

Step Three

Teach children that it's not disrespectful to say no to an adult. No, I don't want to get in your car, help you put something in your trunk, give you directions, help you look for your lost dog, etc. A polite "No" any time they are uncomfortable is perfectly acceptable.

Step Four

Teach them to keep their distance. Kids are good at not getting caught if they're playing tag, so you just need to reinforce that it's OK to keep that same distance from an adult when they aren't playing.

Step Five

Teach them to be aware of future plans. Most child abductions are by non-custodial parents. And a frequent tactic that's used in those abductions is the non-custodial parent convincing the child that the visitation schedule has changed. Make sure your child is well aware of all scheduled visits AND that they contact you any time someone tells them the schedule has changed. "Sure Mom, let me just call Dad first. I promised him I would always call if there was a change in plans," is a good response.

Step Six

Teach them that an honest adult will not be offended by them protecting themselves.

Step Seven

Practice with them! You are asking your child to behave in ways that normally get them in trouble. So you need to role play this frequently. They need to get comfortable with the idea that it's OK to shout anatomically specific words. They need to get comfortable with telling adults that they won't help them. They even need to learn it's OK to second-guess a parent. So they need to practice. And not just once, either. The more comfortable they are with these techniques, the more likelier they are to use them in an emergency.

Step Eight

Understand that there is no way to predator-proof your children. There will always be a risk, but these steps can help reduce that risk.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5195957_teach-kids-protect-themselves-predators.html

How to Fingerprint Your Child and Make It a Fun Activity

By [ReuseItAll](#)



With child abductions happening at an alarming rate all around the world, one step a parent can take to help find their child if they are missing is to have them fingerprinted. The National Child Identification Program, which has partnered with the FBI, has fingerprints on file for millions of children. This organization is dedicated to identifying missing children and bringing them home safe. Below is an opportunity to make fingerprinting a fun an [educational](#) activity for children as you explain to them the importance of their fingerprints! A craft project is a great activity to do with children. Use this family time as an opportunity to safeguard them at the same time.

Things You'll Need:

- Ink Pad (Not Waterproof)
- Paper (Two for every child doing craft activity)
- Crayons, Colored Pencils and Markers

Step One



Start off on a flat surface. Place two pieces of paper down side by side. You are going to have your child place their finger prints on each piece of paper. Use one piece of paper for each hand. For multiple children doing this project, please write their names on each paper so that you can keep track of who's fingerprints are who's.

Step Two



Open up the black ink pad. Be sure to use a NON waterproof ink pad. Those ink pads that say "waterproof" on them are very difficult to wash off a child's fingers! If you only have a waterproof ink pad, then make sure you do it prior to a bath or shower so that fingers can be scrubbed well!

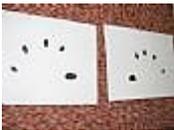
Step Three



Now, have your child lightly press each fingertip onto the ink pad. With all 5 fingers on their hand stamped with ink, have them place their fingers on one of the pieces of paper and press lightly again. Note, the harder the press, the less the pattern on each fingerprint will show up on the paper. The purpose of this craft is for them to see how each fingerprint looks!

Step Four

Repeat the process with their second hand. The result should be ten unique little fingerprints, 5 on each paper. Once each finger has left a print on the paper, have your child wash their hands really well with warm soapy water. If they don't get most of the ink off, when they go to handle the papers or touch anywhere else, there will be little smudges on everything.



Step Five

Next, have your child brainstorm about what they could turn each finger print into. They could draw two separate pictures completely different from one another or they could turn both papers into one big scene. Let them be creative and take their time. I encouraged my children to make each finger print into something slightly different so that each one was unique like their own fingerprints are.

Step Six



One example is to draw each fingerprint into your favorite cartoon character or stuffed animal. In the photo to the left, each fingerprint was drawn into an Ugly Doll character. Click on picture to enlarge the photo.

Step Seven



Another example is to draw each fingerprint into an outdoor scene full of bugs and animals. Be sure to encourage your child to add to the background of their picture. Its fun to see how the fingerprints become part of the drawing.

Step Eight



The next example you could do is turn your child's fingerprints into an underwater ocean scene. In this photo, each fingerprint together became a school of fish.

Step Nine



The last example is to draw each fingerprint into a different flower. They could also be a part of unique patterns across the page if you just want to draw designs.

Step Ten

The point of this is to teach them about how unique their fingerprints look up close and to do something fun with them as a keepsake. They can hang it on the fridge or you can frame it to keep. After this you can tell them that they are going to make a record of their fingerprints for you to keep. Below is a link for how to make a fingerprint card for children in my Resources. By doing this you have a record of their prints as well for their safety if they should ever go missing.

Tips & Warnings

- Remember to have your child press **LIGHTLY** on the paper with each fingerprint so that you can see the detail of each print. The harder they press their finger, the darker the print becomes because all of the lines and swirls of each fingerprint blend together. This is why, for this craft, it is very important that you use an ink pad and not just paint. You want the child to discover what their fingerprints look like. When you go to record them for yourself, after the craft project, they will understand why you have to do each finger for each child.

Resources

- [How to Make a Fingerprint Card for Children](#)

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Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5196853_fingerprint-child-make-fun-activity.html

How to Compare a Child Locator and GPS Locator for Children

by veryirie

Take advantage of the advances in technology to help you keep track of your loved ones. Select a child locator or a GPS locator for children which are available now.

Consider and compare standard and bonus features of these locators as well as cost and durability to help you decide. But remember, talking to your child and preparing your child ahead of time just in case is the very first thing to do, whether or not you invest in a child locator or a GPS locator for children.

Step One

Use a GPS locator watch for your child under the age of 9 or 10. Notice the device is designed to serve as and look like an actual digital watch, so it's true purpose is not readily recognizable.

Set the watch with safety zones for a child for day and night readings. Make note if the child goes outside these areas or if the strap of the locator is opened or forcibly removed, an alert will be immediately sent to you via text message to your cell phone and your email with location of device. Find these GPS locators for children and an affordable monthly subscription service at lok8u.com.

Step Two

Purchase this mini GPS real-time tracking device with 15-second location updates for an older child or teen. Note the very durable, water-resistant compact-sized tracker fits perfectly in a jeans pocket or purse and comes with a panic button activated after only a 2 second hold. Find this GPS locator for children available at brickhousesecurity.com. Make sure to also compare the monthly subscription service and what it entails.

Step Three

Compare this simple child locator with the above units and you'll see this is perfect to use while shopping in a mall or store with your child. Be aware these locators are battery powered and work in distances up to 600 feet.

To use, follow the directional guides on the screen of the locator and listen for the beeps which grow louder the closer you get to the lost child. Find more details on this child locator and similar child safety items at brickhousesecurity.com.

Step Four

Do an internet search to see the various items available by putting the words "child locator" in the Google search box. See this teddy bear child locator in several colors at mypreciouskid.com. Be aware this unit works up to 150 feet distance and produces a loud chirping noise when child wanders beyond 20 to 30 feet away.

Step Five

Keep track of family members and friends using the free service from Google. Go to Google.com/latitude or view the video below in the link under Resources to see how it works. Note this free service obviously cannot provide the specific details on location like the above GPS locators for children, but it can serve as peace of mind especially for parents of teens out and about on the town.

Remember that all cell phones produced after 2005, were required by the FCC to have GPS locator capability. Teach your child or teen to immediately dial 911 on their cell phone and emergency help will be there, even if the child cannot give the operator the address.

Tips & Warnings

- Real-time tracking means you can actually view the device moving on a map on the internet.
- Be aware Google Latitude may not work with your current cell phone and you do have to sign up to be a Google member to use the free service. Also, check with the plan provider for your cell phone to inquire if there are any usage charges before installing Google Latitude.
- One of these locators would make an excellent gift for new grandparents to give for their grandchildren.
- These devices should never be relied upon to replace child-safety techniques employed and practiced and talked about by family members, but as an additional resource if needed.

Resources

- * [Google Latitude Service](#)
- * [Lok8u](#)
- * [Brickhouse Security](#)
- * [My Precious Kid](#)

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5198979_compare-locator-gps-locator-children.html

How to Talk to Young Children About Tragedy

by AskLucy

Tragedies are difficult for everyone involved, whether it be a child abduction, plane crash, natural disaster, or sudden loss of a loved one. Talking to a young child is difficult because they may have limited understanding, the inability to fix a situation, and the strong emotional response you expect.

Things You'll Need

- Quiet time
- Calm spirit

Step One

Do some research on the kind of tragedy you are having to explain. The Dougy Center for Grieving Children and Families (grief pertaining to loss), National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (grief related to abductions), and the National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center (many resources on grief pertaining to natural disasters) all have excellent information on how to help children deal with those events. Links below.

Step Two

Prepare yourself. Now that you are armed with information, take time to center yourself. Pay attention to whether you have eaten, have had time to bathe, get the support you need. Sometimes there is no time when you are in crisis and you need to tell a child something even while you are in an emotional reaction yourself. At least take a few deep breaths.

Step Three

Talk with the child in a quiet place, phones off if possible. If you are talking with your child and there is another parent, get them involved. If your young child has a comfort item like a blanket or stuffed animal, make sure it is around.

Step Four

If your child is verbal and has an idea that something is going on, start by asking what they already know. Let them tell you without interruption.

Step Five

Once your child has told you what they know, you can let them know you were paying attention by summarizing what they told you. "So, Missy, you think everyone is over at the house because you fought with your brother and that is why he is in the hospital." Often times, being understood will lead to a child's expression of emotion... even if they have gotten the events wrong, it is important to understand and let them have their emotions without judging them. "I bet you were really scared, and felt really terrible that you argued with him."

Step Six

This is the time to correct any misperceptions and reassure the child the tragedy was not their fault and that they are safe now. "I know you feel terrible, but this was an accident, and Bobby's being hurt is not your fault. You are safe now and we are not mad, we love you."

Step Seven

This is also the time for you to look them in the eye, speak softly and slowly- but firmly- and tell your child what has happened. Be direct and truthful. Depending on how young your child is, you may need to keep this very brief. "Bobby did get hurt today, by the car, and we are not sure when he is coming home." Sometimes it is best to give information in a few pieces, and stick to what you know for sure, than give possibilities. For example, even if hypothetical Bobby's prognosis is very poor- it is possible to focus on what you know right now, not what may likely happen in the future. Save that conversation for another day.

Step Eight

When you are done speaking, ask your child if they have any questions, and how they feel. Young children do not show emotion on their faces like adults do. Just because a child does not look upset or be reacting like you think they should, does not mean there is something wrong. Children take in information in bits- so they may take in what you have to say and ask to go play, or they may repeat it all day, or burst into tears. All possibilities are within the normal range. Be prepared to have a calm demeanor, answer questions and repeat your answers in the hours days and weeks to come.

Step Nine

Have art materials on hand. Children learn through play and art- if they have feelings about what has happened and cannot easily talk about it, ask them to draw you a picture of how they feel.

Tips & Warnings

- Pay attention to your child's body language and behaviors. Children lack the emotional repertoire that adults do and show their emotions through behaviors when they are overwhelmed.
- Let your child set the pace at first, on how and when to talk about the tragedy. Some children may avoid painful issues to a detrimental degree, but initially, they may just not be taking it in like an adult would expect.
- Reassure children about their safety and that the tragedy was not their fault. Even if you cannot reassure them they will always be safe, you can- most likely- focus them on the fact that they are safe in the present moment.
- Seek professional guidance and support if you feel it is necessary or if you notice signs that your child has altered their mood or behavior in a way that concerns you.

Resources

- * [The Dougy Center](#)
- * [NCCIC and Natural Disasters](#)
- * [National Center for Missing and Exploited Kids](#)
- * [35 Ways to Help a Grieving Child \(book\)](#)

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5205409_talk-young-children-tragedy.html

Chapter 4 Parents with Teenagers

How to Keep Your Teen Safe From Online Predators

by edieness

Some teens may like to spend lots of time online, often joining community web sites. Young adults are not always aware of the dangers that can be brought upon them while they innocently surf the net. Online predators may be a major threat to these unsuspecting children.

Step One

Monitor the activity on the computer. If your child has their own computer, do not allow them to have the admin. password. Teens may think they are in no danger from online predators, at times children may even believe that their parents know little or next to nothing about how life works. If the adolescent has full control of the computer, or even just the admin password, they might be able to change the stored information on the computer leaving you, the parent, none the wiser.

Step Two

Put the computer in a central location in your home. If you have a laptop then set it up at a desk. You will want to be able to look into your child's online life as often as you like in order to prevent them from being stalked by an online predator, or worse, a pedophile.

Step Three

Speak to your son or daughter and explain that profiles on the internet are not always as they seem. Tell them a story about a child that was abducted by an online predator. If you do not know such a story then do a search online, learn the facts and share them with your teen. Explain to your youngster that they are, under no circumstance, to share personal information with a stranger online. Boldly express the dangers that surround talking or chatting with someone they do not know.

Step Four

Get educated. Learn how to look at the computers internet history, learn how to read the index and review cookies. Learn how to view deleted history. Do not assume that your child is not in danger. Do not stalk your teen's online activity, but if you suspect suspicious behavior then look into it, you may be surprised at what power knowledge has when protecting your offspring from an online predator.

Step Five

Get your teen's online website passwords. This may seem like an invasion of privacy; however, if it should turn into a serious situation involving an online predator, you may rejoice in the fact that you do, indeed, have their online passwords.

Resources

- * [How to Teach Teens to Value Money](#)
- * [How to Get Your Teen to Laugh with You](#)
- * [How to Bond With Your Teenager](#)
- * [Picture](#)

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5182392_keep-teen-safe-online-predators.html

How to Avoid Leading an Online Child Predator to Your Front Door

by georgelarson

Social networks, for an adult, are great for staying in touch with others yet putting information about your daily life could lead child predators to your front door. When you lay out what your day is going to look like, or when you will be home to answer the post on someone's Myspace, Twitter, Facebook, or any other social network website, you are also providing that specific information to child predators who are monitoring those social networking websites. Here are suggestions of how to keep your kids safe and avoid leading a child predator to your front door.

Step One

Child Predators on the Internet Versus Parents with Online Jobs, Blogs, and Social Websites

Keep your child's identity safe from child predators.

When you post the latest picture of your child on your blog or in an email do not include their real name in the caption. Your blog or email provides additional information such as your last name, the city you live in, and a phone number that can be used to invite a child predator right to your front door.

When you are 'Tweeting' about what you are doing and where you are a stranger can easily gather information about you. Keep your 'tweets' general or in the 'past tense' without any specific information. When you post exactly where you are and the names of who you are with it would not be hard for someone monitoring you to go to your home address and find your child home alone. They could then approach your child, talk about you as if they know you, and convince your child they are friends of yours.

A parent can tell a child, 'do not talk to strangers', yet when the stranger acts like a friend your child is instantly vulnerable.

Step Two

Tips for Keeping Your Child Safe on the Parent's Social Network Websites

Most individuals do not even think about child predators monitoring their social networks, but they do, and all parents need to know that and post information accordingly.

Do not use your real last name online. Find a pen name that your friends know so you can still stay in touch.

Use your child's nickname instead of their real name anytime you mention them online.

Do not blog or Twitter about anything before it has already happened.

Do not put your actual city when filling out profile pages on social networks. Give the metropolitan area like Chicago, IL or St. Paul, MN - never the exact city you live in.

Do not show your child's face online. There are picture editing tools you can use to blur out their face, have them wearing sunglasses, use a photo where they are looking down, from behind or from the chin down. Your friends already know what they look like and child predators will not.

Do not lay out your day's activities or say something like, 'we just got home from Joey's daily practice'. A predator can monitor your comments and learn your schedule quickly with these types of statements.

Do not give specific information about where you were or are going to. When you name what church your family attends or the school you went to for the choir concert it helps predators hone in on where you live and where your activities are held.

Step Three

Ways to Protect Your Posts and Information on Social Networking Sites

The information posted on social websites, although small snippets at a time, can add up to all the information a child predator needs to find your front door, know where your child goes to school and church, and what the family schedule is.

Limit who can see what you post. To avoid random viewers to be able to see your contact information change your privacy settings. If needed you can also block users from having any contact with you.

The restrictions that are in place do not advertise where you live, what you are doing or when you will be away.

Ask your friends not to post this type of information about you.

Tips & Warnings

Although child abduction is not a new problem, the Internet has provided child predators with a way to gather information as the parent innocently socializes with friends. Be aware of what you mention on your social websites, blogs and emails so you do not lead child predators to your front door.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5210373_avoid-child-predator-front-door.html

How to Prevent Sexting

By Upon-Request

The Texting Generation

Sexting is sending and receiving explicit text messages, video and pics via cell phones and other mobile devices. Unfortunately, it's bordering on becoming an epidemic with teens and tweens. In 2009, it's estimated that 1 in 5 teens will send sexually explicit messages via their cell phone (or have already).

With a generation that has grown up in a world of instant gratification, virtual reality and ever-changing technology, it can be difficult to convey the dangers of sexting to kids. This popular trend is seen as "virtually harmless" by kids, yet causing much concern for parents and teachers alike.

Here are some suggestions to help prevent sexting with your kids:

Step One

Communication is key. Having a frank discussion with your child in a non-threatening manner can allow you both to gauge how serious a topic this may be in their circle of friends, as well as the serious repercussions that can follow.

Step Two

Set boundaries for cell phone usage. You may want to consider requiring your child to leave their cell phone or mobile device in an open or common area at night, so there's no temptation to sending or receiving explicit text messages and pictures when you are assuming they have gone to bed.

Step Three

Know the law and convey it to your child. While state and federal law makers are scrambling to keep up with this latest trend, there are already many cases on the books of 14- and 15-year old teens who have been prosecuted for among other things, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, by forwarding a nude picture of themselves to another.

Schools have also found it necessary to enter the realm of policing cell phone usage. Students have been suspended, or worse, been turned over to law enforcement, after a school official was notified of a sexually explicit message being sent from one student to another.

Kids need to know that the repercussions are far-reaching and can have an impact on their lives now and in the future. Part of being a teen is exploring sexuality, and pushing the boundaries of rules and laws - it's been that way for a thousand years. But the Internet can be a very unforgiving place, and having a nude pic or a long-forgotten forum post related to sexting pop up years down the road can be harmful, not to mention embarrassing.

Step Four

Teach kids to use their critical thinking skills and help them define their own responsibility for their cell phones. They're smart, they're savvy, and you've been instilling morals and values their entire life - now they just need to put all that they know into action to keep themselves safe. No parent or teacher wants to spend their time policing a child's cell phone usage, but responsible kids will hopefully understand the need for boundaries and the need to protect whatever innocence in our children that we can.

Tips & Warnings

Find out if your child's school has resources for parents. If not, suggest a workshop through the PTA, law enforcement agencies or public agencies.
Get involved - through your neighborhood, kid's sports teams or church groups.

Resources

[Connect With Kids: High School Survival Kit](#)

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_4863054_prevent-sexting.html

How to Monitor Internet Use and Email

By **jpwriter**

Monitoring email and online activity is something that both employers and parents are doing more and more. Parents may need to track the activity of their children as a way to keep them safe online. As technology changes, so do the routes of contact for internet predators which includes; text messaging kids, engaging them in chat rooms, social networking sites and more. Computer use and internet monitoring is not only helpful for parents, but many employers are beginning to use these programs on their computers at work to pick up any activity or inactivity of their employees.

Things You'll Need:

- computer
- internet
- computer monitoring program

Step One

Before taking the action to monitor internet use and the email of your kids you need to think about the invasion of their privacy. This will differ from person to person as well as with the parent child relationship. Decide what level of privacy works for your family before deciding on which monitoring program you want to use.

Step Two

Decide whether or not you want to pay for a program that monitors online activity. The free route is a good option depending on your needs. One program that monitors online activity is McGruff SafeGuard. The McGruff SafeGuard program allows parents to monitor their kids activity and receive an alert text message when predetermined words pop up.

There are several other programs that you can use for online monitoring. One program that has been voted by PC Magazine for being such a complete monitoring system is SpectorPro. This program is built for Mac and Windows and copies internet activity, keystrokes, search history, instant messaging, the transfer of files, and much more. It also sends a notification when certain activities are done. With this program you have the ability to monitor everything someone does online. There is also a program through SpectorPro for employers. Net Nanny is another program that allows you to block words and get an activity log.

These are only just a few of the programs available. Look around to find more online monitoring programs to compare.

Step Three

Figure out which online monitoring program is the best for you depending on your needs and budget. If you can't afford one of the pay programs then it can be helpful to try the free one first to even see if you like it. There's always time for an upgrade.

If you're an employer trying to make sure that the work done on your dime is actually work then look for the employer online monitoring programs. Some of them offer discounts to businesses and the software that comes for a business is made to be put on several computers.

Step Four

Talk with your children about the fact that you'll be putting a monitoring system on the computer. It's important to talk to them and come to an understanding about the importance of safety versus privacy. It's also possible to bargain with your kids about their use of the computers and full internet access...it depends on your household. Keep in mind that predators are very up to date with the latest technology.

Tips & Warnings

The McGruff SafeGuard program allows you to report child predators through their system.

Resources

- [How to Monitor Text Messages](#)
- [How to Hide your IP Address](#)

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5111957_monitor-internet-use-email.html

How to Monitor Text Messages

By **jpwriter**

Monitor your children's cell phone usage.

Parents cannot be too careful today. With the rapid increase in technology comes an increased vulnerability of our information and the safety of children. There is no denying that child predators are out there and increasingly coming up with ways to lure. One of their newest and most dangerous tricks is to attract kids through cell phone text messages. To combat what kids are facing parents must take an active role. One way to do this is to monitor the calls and text messages. These days cell phones are literally little computers that a predator or thief can reach right through like an open door to grab children and teenagers alike.

Things You'll Need:

- cell phone
- www.mymobilewatchdog.com account

Step One

Get over the idea that you are spying on your child if you decide to use this program and monitor cell text messages. Yes, there is a level of respect that you need to give your child because this will foster in them responsibility and trust, however, the ultimate responsibility for safety lies in parenting. Making the decision to monitor your child's cell phone text messages might be a solution that saves them.

Step Two

Sign up for RADAR. Copy and paste www.mymobilewatchdog.com into your browser. This program will monitor cell phone calls, text messages, instant messaging, picture messages, and email. This will enable you to be notified when your child receives any of the above, as well as have access to the content. You receive the same message as your child. Each day your child receives a message that tells them his or her content has been reported to the parent, so your child is aware of the cell phone monitoring.

Step Three

Allow this cell phone monitoring program to help you become involved in your child's life instead of using it as a power tool. You might be met with resistance, especially depending upon age, but this can be used for you to sit down with your child and create calendars, set appointments, or task lists.

Step Four

Talk with your kids about the reasons you are choosing to monitor their cell phone, and computer usage. Use this as an opportunity to open up communication and dialogue with your family about safety. This can be used as an excellent way to bond with son or daughter. While you building acceptable contact lists have your child tell you a funny story or something interesting about the person you are talking about and adding to the list.

Step Five

If you are unable to sign up for a program like this, set up other rules for your child around the use of their cell phone, email, and computer usage. It's acceptable to have the passwords and check in on what your kids are doing. What they think is harmless information can be the perfect thing a predator needs. Make sure to have open dialogue with your family about these issues.

Step Six

Remember who the parent is in the relationship. Along with MySpace, Facebook, and all the other social networking sites that are popping up, kids are putting up half naked pictures of themselves, sending text messages over their cell phones, and many other potentially dangerous acts that they think of as harmless. It's not. You never know who is going to be the person that is just crazy enough to lure you kid through a simple cell phone text only to then meet them and assault or kill them. Pedophiles have started randomly text messaging numbers until they get a bite from a child. Keep your parent hat on. If you are going to allow your child a cell phone then make sure your child is safe enough to use it. Monitor their cell, text, and computer usage.

Tips & Warnings

If you are actually using this product for the sole purpose to "spy" on your child and overly pry, then there may be more issues at hand than just cell phone safety.

While it's nice to think that "bad things happen to other people" it is quite unrealistic. Approach this topic from a loving place instead of controlling and fear inducing.

I have never used this program personally so do not know the effectiveness of it, however, it's been featured in the news. Do your own home work on what works best for you and your family as this way of monitoring may not work for you.

If you are met with resistance from your child, just remember you are the parent, and make the rules. Kids are fortunate to have cell phones and computers and the technological advances, however they do open up another area of vulnerability and access.

This program does cost money.

Resources

- [How to stop sexual violence in your community.](#)
- [How to save money with the best cell phone plan.](#)
- [How to monitor internet use and email](#)

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_4667686_monitor-text-messages.html

Chapter 5 Important Records to Have

How to Use Dental Records to Prevent Kidnapping

by **atomiccafe**

People keep records of their fingerprints, but neglect to record their dental records. Follow these steps to use teeth to identify an attacker or find a missing child.

Step One

Ask your dentist to make molds of your family's teeth. Many will oblige, but if he or she doesn't, explain your purpose in requesting these. Also see if you can obtain copies of other dental records, such as x-rays, if you don't already have a copy.

Step Two

Create your own dental molds if you can't retrieve them from your dentist. Many websites sell kits with molding paste or gel. Check Halloween sites, too, as they often sell similar trays for people looking to create vampire fangs. Follow their instructions to mix, then bite into the tray to make a clean imprint.

Step Three

Update your molds periodically. Especially if you have young children, try to update your molds as soon as a tooth falls out or grows in. Adults may not need to update theirs as quickly, but make sure you pay attention if a tooth is chipped or knocked out.

Step Four

Remember to mark certain features. This serves a double purpose of having identifying marks if a person goes missing and for keeping records up-to-date. Mark immediately if a child has lost a tooth; you may not have the mold yet, but you'll remember in case he or she goes missing. Mark any caps, discolored teeth, and other features that distinguish a mouth.

Tips & Warnings

- If you are ever abducted or attacked, BITE! Biting your attacker will help someone identify them later by the distinguishing marks. If you cannot bite your attacker, find something nearby. In a car, bite an armrest of the soft part of a door. Find wood or another material soft enough to make a mark in but hard enough to keep it. If you're offered a straw, even, use your molars to bite lengthwise on the straw for partial identification.
- Teach your child of what to do if they are ever abducted. Stress the importance of biting.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5202181_use-dental-records-prevent-kidnapping.html

How to Make a Fingerprint Card for Children

by Shirley Philbrick

Every 40 seconds a child goes missing. Runaways or abductions from noncustodial parents and sexual predators occur each and every day.

It's a nightmare most parents pray they never have to endure, but many will face that very situation at some point in their life.

Keeping children safe is, and should be, a priority to parents, school officials, and law enforcement agencies everywhere. One way to help in this endeavor is to keep a fingerprint card for each child in the family. Here's how to make one for yours.

Things You'll Need

- Card stock paper
- Ink pad



Step One

Purchase standard white card stock paper and a black ink pad from an office supply store or anywhere that supplies computer products.

Black ink pads can also be found in craft stores in the stamps and scrap booking areas.

Step Two

Fold one sheet of card stock in half so it is now 5 1/2 by 8 1/2.

Step Three

Open the paper and using a pen and a ruler or straight edge, draw a horizontal center line and 4 vertical lines on the lower half of the folded page. The two sections will have five spaces each: one for each fingerprint for both hands.

Step Four

Open the ink pad and firmly press the child's left thumb into the pad, then place the thumb on it's side in the first square and carefully roll the thumb pad onto the page. Repeat with each finger making sure the prints are clear and not blurred. If the fingerprint is not clearly defined, repeat on a new piece of paper.

Step Five

Once the left hand has been done and the ink has dried, follow through with fingerprinting the right hand.

Step Six

Be sure ink is thoroughly dried and label each fingerprint. Put the child's name, date of birth, and date of printing, on the outside of the card.

Step Seven

Put the fingerprint card in a file that also contains the child's name, date of birth, a current photo, address, emergency medical information, and information and photos of identifying features such as birth marks.

Tips & Warnings

- Be sure to update photos to keep them current as well as any identifying marks such as tattoos or piercings that a child may receive as they get older.
- See the following resources on keeping children safe from child molesters sex offenders, and other situations of possible abduction.

- Contact local law enforcement agencies to inquire whether they may have fingerprinting clinics scheduled in your area.

Resources

- * [Lindsey Baum: Missing Child Alert !](#)
- * [Printable Child Identification Kit -Easy to Use !](#)
- * [How to Help with Finding Missing Children](#)
- * [Keep Your Children Safe](#)

Photo/Video Credits Shirley Philbrick

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5190967_make-fingerprint-card-children.html

Chapter 6 Creating a Safer Community and World

How to Start a Neighborhood Watch

by Sara Jean Fisher

Neighborhood Watch refers to a special organized group of neighbors in one area that work together to keep that part of the community safe, reduce crime, protect children and work with law enforcement to report any criminal activity. Just the presence of a neighborhood watch group in a suburban or rural area can often be enough to deter burglars or abductors from targeting the area and a neighborhood watch in city areas can help reduce crime rate by keeping the streets clear, making it safer for children to walk the sidewalks. It doesn't take much to get started; read on to see how you can organize and start a neighborhood watch in your area.

Step One

Organize Neighbors From Your Street

Hold a meeting with the neighbors on your street to discuss the idea of starting a neighborhood watch and find out who would be interested in signing up to volunteer. The more neighbors you can get to participate, the better. You can even see if neighbors from nearby streets would be willing to participate in a larger neighborhood watch program, where the entire development or community can exchange information and tips to keep a larger portion of your area safe.

Step Two

Schedule Shifts for Neighbors to Be On Watch

The point of neighborhood watch is to, well, watch the neighborhood! Neighbors can schedule dates when they can volunteer to keep an eye out on the street either by sitting in their front yard or driving through the neighborhood for their shift. Setting up a calendar can help you keep track of who is on duty for what days; of course, neighbors can always come out and keep watch on the days they have off to offer an extra set of eyes, or to keep their fellow neighbors company while they watch over the neighborhood.

You can register your neighborhood watch online with USA On Watch, and make it easier for neighbors to learn about your group, join, schedule service dates, and plan meetings. You can find USA On Watch's website and check out the various free tools and resources they have to offer below.

USA on Watch

<http://www.usaonwatch.org/index.php>

Step Three

Organize and Equip Your Neighborhood Watch

While equipment certainly isn't necessary, it can both aid those involved in the neighborhood watch while they are on duty and make it easier to communicate amongst a larger neighborhood watch group. Invest in some walkie-talkies that can be rotated through neighbors, depending on who is on duty that day. Pick up some heavy-duty flashlights that can be used to investigate suspicious sounds or activities after dark.

You should also create a phone tree to give neighbors a way to get in contact when something major happens on the street. Everyone on the street should be included on the phone tree and the person on duty for the evening should initiate the chain when something important needs to be shared quickly. This will keep the whole neighborhood informed of impending dangers; it's the quickest, safest way to alert the neighborhood when something is wrong.

Step Four

Communicate With Local Law Enforcement

Keep in regular touch with law enforcement about suspected and known criminal activity going on in the area. If you share the information you learn through your neighborhood watch with law enforcement, not only will they be grateful for the assistance, they'll be more likely to come by and share information with you, as well. Making friends with the local police department can certainly benefit your neighborhood watch and the neighborhood as a whole.

You can also set up regular meetings with local law enforcement to trade notes, share information and come up with new ideas on how to combat issues within your neighborhood and your town. Contact your local police department's non-emergency number (not 9-1-1!) to ask about setting up a meeting with the police department and your local neighborhood watch.

Step Five

Post a Neighborhood Watch Sign on Your Street

Posting a Neighborhood Watch sign on your street will let would-be criminals know that you and your neighbors work together to keep your street safe and that you report any suspicious or criminal activity to local law enforcement agencies. Sometimes, a Neighborhood Watch sign is all you need to keep predators and intruders off your street and out of your neighborhood. You can usually find Neighborhood Watch signs at your hardware store, or you can purchase a sign online. See if other neighbors will chip in to help cover the costs of purchasing and shipping to make it more affordable.

National Neighborhood Watch Institute

<http://www.nnwi.org/>

Tips & Warnings

- Set up a road sign on your street that lets potential criminals know that your street has a neighborhood watch program – it will deter criminals that may have been thinking about targeting your street, and remind predators that someone is always watching.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5202537_start-neighborhood-watch.html

How to Combat Human Trafficking

By [Upon-Request](#)

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery.

According to several watch groups, human trafficking is second only to drug trafficking worldwide. There are approximately 27 million people that are victims of trafficking rings around the world. In the U.S. it's estimated that more than 15,000 individuals are trafficked through the U.S. on an annual basis - 80% of which are [women](#) and young girls. The numbers include those that are not only trafficked for the means of commercial sexual exploitation, but also forced labor used in agricultural, domestic and manufacturing industries.

What can you do to help combat human trafficking? Read on:

Step One



Become informed. Websites such as HumanTrafficking.org, Notforsalecampaign.org and the FBI's website all provide extensive information regarding the worldwide problems of human trafficking, help for the victims, and updates on the global efforts to abolish the problem.

©Lifetime Channel mini-series

Step Two

Become an advocate. There are many ways you can help spread the word - as an individual or a community:

- * You can add a link to your Facebook or Myspace profile of one of the websites listed in the Resource section below.
- * Post a blog entry about human trafficking and provide resources.
- * Use human trafficking as the subject of a school project or class presentation.
- * Send a letter to a major consumer brand requesting that they use materials that are slavery-free. You can send letters online at ChainStoreReaction.com.
- * Add a link to a human trafficking website to your email signature.
- * Embed a YouTube video (type 'human trafficking' into YouTube's search engine to find an extensive list of available videos).
- * Download and distribute any number of the available powerpoint presentations or PDF formatted resources that are available online.

Step Three



US Dept of Health & Human Svcs - Rescue & Restore Campaign

Become actively involved.

In 2008, a full-length rockumentary titled CALL+RESPONSE, featuring a host of musicians, actors and key people working to fight human trafficking, was produced. Screenings of the movie has been held at churches, universities and film festivals throughout the US and Canada, as well as other countries. You, your community, corporation, church or other group, can book a screening of the film to get the word out, host a fundraiser to raise monies for the non-profits working to abolish human slavery, become a Rescue & Restore coalition member, or find other ways to support the ongoing efforts.

The U.S. Government is committed to ending human trafficking. If you have information regarding suspected trafficking in your area, contact:

- *The NATIONAL HOTLINE at 1-888-373-7888
- *Your local FBI office (you can also submit a tip on the FBI's website)
- *The TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE COMPLAINT LINE at 1-888-428-7581

All of these can provide VICTIM ASSISTANCE & REFERRALS as well.

Resources

- [FBI's Human Trafficking webpages](#)
- [US Dept of Health & Human Svcs - Campaign to Rescue & Restore](#)
- [HumanTrafficking.org](#)
- [NotForSalecampaign.org](#)
- [Call+Response Rockumentary website](#)
- [ChainStoreReaction.com](#)

Photo Credit TerroristPlanet.com

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5215794_combat-human-trafficking.html

How to Start a Neighborhood Phone Tree

by Sara-Jean Fisher

A phone tree is a great way to connect neighbors in the event of an emergency in your community. You can create a phone tree just for your street, or compile a larger phone tree that connects every street in your development. Starting a phone tree is easy to do; it takes a minimal amount of effort but can have a profound effect on the entire neighborhood's safety and well-being if an emergency situation ever arises. Read on to learn how to start a neighborhood phone tree.

Step One

Compile a List of Names and Phone Numbers

To start a phone tree, you will first need the phone numbers of every neighbor that will be participating. The easiest and most accurate - albeit most time consuming – way to do this is by visiting every neighbor on your street, explaining your idea to start a phone tree, and getting the information directly from each neighbor who wants to participate. It's crucial that you contact the neighbors that you aren't as fond of as well; a phone tree works best when all neighbors participate and it's likely that the neighbor you don't get along with will be happy to put aside their differences with you to assist in creating the phone tree.

You may also want to get a list of cell phone numbers for every person who lives in the house to add to your phone tree list. This will make the phone tree a little more lengthy, and take more time to create, but it will ensure that each neighbor can be reached in the event of an emergency, even if they are not home to answer their home phone.

Step Two

Use Your Computer to Create the Phone Tree

Once you have all of the information, the next step is to piece the phone tree together. You can do this by using any word processor – like Word or WordPerfect, for instance – and typing up a list of the names and numbers to start. Using only last names for your phone tree will make it simple for other neighbors to contact the person they are responsible for on the phone tree.

After you have your list typed up, assign each neighbor a different neighbor that they are to call when the phone tree is initiated. To make this process easier, you can assign names in alphabetical order, or go by the street number – for instance, #1 calls #2, #2 calls #3, and so on. Start the phone tree with the person who will be initiating the calls, most likely you, and then list each neighbor in order of who will be called, and who they will be calling.

For example; let's say Bob, Eric and Andrew will be starting a phone tree, in that order, with Bob starting the phone tree by making the first call. Since Bob is first, list Bob's last name with his phone number directly underneath, and number him “1”. Bob will be responsible for calling Eric, so place Eric's last name and number directly underneath Bob, and number him “2”. Eric will be calling Andrew, so Andrew should be numbered “3” and his information will be under Eric's. Continue in this pattern until there are no more neighbors left to call.

Step Three

Print the List and Highlight the Names

When the phone tree is complete, print out a copy for each neighbor. Label each copy with the last name of the neighbor that copy of the phone tree will be going to. Using a yellow and a pink highlighter, highlight the name and number of the neighbor for whom that copy of the phone tree is for. Underneath that, highlight the name and number of the neighbor that family is responsible for calling when the phone tree is initiated. This will make it easy for your neighbors to find their names on the phone tree, and find who they need to call after they are called by the neighbor responsible for them.

Step Four

Hand Out the Phone Tree

Once you have the copies of the phone tree highlighted and ready to go, hand them out to all of your neighbors. Refrain from placing them in your neighbor's mailbox; they may not find their copy if you use this method. Instead, hand-deliver each copy of the phone tree. In addition to making sure each neighbor gets their copy, you can offer instructions and answer questions for any neighbors who are confused about how the phone tree will work.

Step Five

Initiate the Phone Tree

Initiating the phone tree is just as simple; when an emergency situation arises, the first person on the phone tree should be contacted and informed of the emergency in detail. Then, the first person on the list should contact the second person on the list which will initiate the phone tree down the line in order. You may want to include these instructions with the copy of each phone tree before you hand it out, so your neighbors understand how the phone tree will work.

Step Six

Keep the Phone Tree Updated

You want to make sure that the phone tree is always up-to-date. You should appoint someone if you are not willing to be responsible for this yourself, and hand out your e-mail address or offer your phone number to every neighbor on the phone tree. Ask them to contact you the minute their phone number changes, or notify you in the event that they move. Update the phone tree immediately, and pass out the new copies, so that every neighbor has the accurate information they need to call the next person on the list in case of an emergency.

Tips & Warnings

- Ask your neighbors to contact you if they are going on vacation or leaving town for an extended period of time. That way, if the phone is has to be initiated while they are gone, neighbors will know to skip them on the list, and will not waste time trying to contact that neighbor during an emergency.
- Explain to each neighbor that if the person they are meant to get a hold of on the list is out of town, that they should contact the next person on the list. For example, if #2 on the phone tree is supposed to call #3, but #3 is on vacation when the phone tree is initiated, they should skip to #4 to continue the tree.
- If a neighbor cannot get a hold of the person they are responsible for, for any reason, ask them to leave the neighbor a message on both their home phone and their cell phone, and then skip to the next number on the phone tree. This way, the phone tree can continue to go on, while the neighbor who didn't answer will be able to get the information as soon as they return home.

Resources

- * [How to Start a Neighborhood Watch](#)

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5212078_start-neighborhood-phone-tree.html

How to Help Expose and Stop Child Trafficking

by jseven

Child trafficking is very prevalent in the world today to the tune of 27 million young slaves and the battle against it is intensifying.

Child trafficking can be going on in your own neighborhood without a hint of suspicion that anything is going on illegally because of the secretiveness of it.

There are several organizations that have formed to expose and stop this terrible crime and have programs to help the public get involved in this fight. Here are some important tips to help us all learn how to spot child trafficking and slavery.

Things You'll Need:

- Education
- Participation

Step One

~~Educate Yourself as Much as Possible~~

There is a host of information on the internet through the activist groups to help educate people on child trafficking. Know the facts and get proactive in whatever way that you can by understanding the patterns of child traffic recruiters.

1. The child traffic recruiters usually prey on children from communities that lack social power and sometimes have the parents consent.
2. That child is usually removed from their home community and placed in an area where they are unable to get help from local law enforcement or the community.
3. The slaveholders use control and violence the keep the child fearful and escape unthinkable.
4. The child's physical or emotional health is disregarded because of the greed for financial gain.

Step Two

~~Get Involved~~

There are many arenas that the public can get involved in to fight the evils of child trafficking such as joining in prayer with an organized prayer group.

The Canadian Salvation Army has organized a "Freedom Friday" lunch time of prayer and fasting to specifically pray for child slaves and encourage others to join them by praying during that time in your own area.

Another way to help may be offering your secretarial skills to a local campaign, starting a college campus campaign, or offering to educate your employees if you are a business owner. Contact any one of the agencies fighting this evil to see where you may be active in helping out.

Step Three

~~Ask Your Church to get Proactive~~

There are movies such as, "Trade" that can be shown in your church or perhaps at a home group meeting, that reveal the truth about child trafficking. This particular movie shows a raid of a filthy prostitution house in New Jersey in 2002, where four girls, ages 14 to 17 that were being held captive and forced into sex trafficking.

Invite the community by hanging up posters about it and have the local radio station announce it.

Hand out more information after viewing this or another movie, to invite everyone to get involved in the battle.

Step Four

~~Watch for Signs of Slavery~~

Look for telltale signs of slavery in local children and teenagers such as fatigue, physical abuse, avoiding eye contact, mysterious absences from school, no friends, and unable to tell you where they live. Also take note if a home in your area has plenty of different cars coming and going and a man living there with a young girl or girls.

Ask authorities to monitor local massage parlors and report anything to authorities that you may feel is suspicious.

Step Five

~~Wear Orange~~

Wearing something orange is a way to tell others that you are joining the fight against child trafficking. Orange has been chosen by The "Not For Sale" organization to make a statement of freedom and encourages everyone to wear some type of orange to show their support of the campaign.

They offer, bandannas, tee shirts, hats, key chains, guitar picks, bracelets and various other items for sale with the color orange or the slogan "Not For Sale" on the items. All proceeds go back into their campaign.

Step Six

~~Become an Abolitionist Investigator~~

Attend an in depth training school called Investigators Academy for two weeks in the heart of San Francisco. This school was recently started to train individuals to spot and help bring down child trafficking.

The classes start in May and end in mid August with a cost of \$1,059 with room and board. The classes by themselves cost \$499 and more information can be found on their web site concerning this academy.

After completion of the two week course, the graduate receives a certificate of completion as an investigator to properly record, document, map and identify all kinds of human trafficking internationally and nationally.

With programs like this we can all help fight this horrible crime against the helpless children and make a difference in our world.

Step Seven

~Follow these Organizations~

Many of these programs such as, Not For Sale, are now on twitter and can be followed and supported by their followers on there.

Resources

- [Not For Sale Campaign](#)
- [Child Sex Slaves by Dr. Phil](#)
- [End Human Trafficking](#)
- [Follow Not For Sale on twitter](#)

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5204208_expose-stop-child-trafficking.html

Chapter 7 Self Defense

How to Use Self Defense to Prevent Childhood Abduction

by Shirley Philbrick



Use self defense

Young children and teenagers are abducted each day in our country. Many times they know the attacker, sometimes they do not. Children often feel powerless in a situation that feels dangerous to them that involves an adult. However, teaching kids and teens how to use self defense to protect themselves is a step in the right direction in preventing childhood abductions.

Step One

Yell as loud as possible:

Teach a child to use his or her voice. Yelling loudly is the number one strategy in self defense, especially in a populated area. "Help" is the most commonly used word, but is seldom the most effective one. Yelling "FIRE !" is more likely to evoke a response if anyone else is around.

Practice, practice, practice yelling "Fire !"

Step Two



Kick a sensitive area of the body:

If a child is in close enough proximity to the potential abductor, aim the kick for the genitals. Most children under the age of twelve are the perfect height to hit their target which will bring anyone, male or female, to their knees in a dangerous situation. Be aware that a lighter kick might just anger a perpetrator, so teach kids to make it count.

Step Three



Bite an arm or hand:

If an abductor comes from behind and wraps their arms around the child, biting an arm may loosen the grip of the perpetrator long enough for the child to get out of reaching distance.

Step Four



Stomp with your heel:

Stomping on the instep or the top of the foot in general can elicit a high degree of pain due to its sensitivity. This will not have as much of an effect coming from a smaller child as it would from one that is older and larger. Again, this is commonly used when a child is grabbed from behind.

Step Five



Back kick or shin scrape the attacker:

Many times an offender will attack from behind to avoid getting struck with the fists. This is the time for a back kick with the heel of the shoe to the shin of the attacker or a shin scrape which is VERY painful. Shin scraping is using the edge of the sole of a shoe to literally scrape down the bony shin of the attacker.

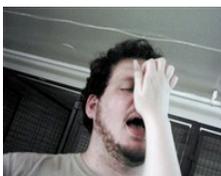
Step Six



Elbow strike the abdomen:

Again, the height of the average child is perfect to deliver a blow to the abdomen of an attacker. Because a child's elbow is small, bony and pointed, the impact it can make can double over a perpetrator of crime.

Step Seven



Palm strike an attacker's nose or throat: Using the lower half of the palm of the hand, strike in an upward motion to the nose if reachable. If not, the same blow delivered with force and executed to the throat can impair the windpipe of the attacker.

Step Eight

Head butt to impair vision:

Use the head butt either by butting the forehead or the back of the head against the attacker's head. This generally won't apply to a younger child due to the difference in height from child to adult. But it will work for most teenagers. Rear head butting can break a nose very efficiently which will in turn temporarily impair the vision of the attacker.

Step Nine

Run as fast and as far as possible:

At any point that an attacker loosens their grip or changes the focus of their attention: RUN !

Tips & Warnings

- Practice these techniques in role play. Do it consistently so it becomes second nature. It does NOT promote aggression. It DOES teach empowerment. Children need to know they are not weak and defenseless.
- Weapons are unlikely to be used in childhood abductions, partly because abductions are often perpetrated by someone the child knows, partly because "luring" a child is generally the technique of choice for child abductors, and partly because children are seen as defenseless.
- Teach kids to get in the habit of wearing a whistle to sound an alert if necessary.
- Biting is not one of the best techniques in self defense due to the possibility of disease transmission. However, it IS one technique that is instinctual to a child and will come naturally in a dangerous situation.
- While role playing, techniques should be "gently" practiced if being used on another person unless protective gear is worn.

Resources

- * [Teaching Kids to Empower Themselves Through the RAD Self Defense Program](#)
- * [PLEASE help find Lindsey Baum](#)

Photo/Video Credits

- * Intro photo by SPhilbrick and techniques photos by Tara Swadley

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5198100_use-defense-prevent-childhood-abduction.html

How to Escape from a Car Trunk

by atomiccafe



Install trunk releases in your car.

Many attackers and kidnappers throw their victims in the trunk of a car. You are NOT helpless in these circumstances! Keep your wits about you and follow these steps to safety!

Step One

If you hear your abductor nearby, WAIT. It's better to be trapped in the trunk longer than to risk escaping and being brutally attacked or thrown into a location that's even harder to escape from.

Step Two

If you hear people nearby who are not your attacker, make noise. Alert them of your location by screaming, hitting things, and rattling whatever you can find in the trunk. Let them know which car you're in (if you know you're in a parking lot, for example) and urge them to call the police.

Step Three

Attempt to find a back seat release if the seats are attached to the trunk. Smaller cars and sedans tend to have this feature. Many cars have a release from the trunk, but if you can't find one, try to kick the seats down or tear through them if you can find a tool. (Anything can be a tool! Use your nails or anything you can pry from the trunk.)

Step Four

Look for the releaser cord. These are often under the carpeting on the driver's side of the car. Pry up the carpet and search. Pull as hard as you can; this may take some effort.

Step Five

Some models of cars have tail lights accessible from the trunk; if this car does, attempt to kick it out and motion to people from the hole you made. It's very hard to kick out a light, but keep trying.

Remember that some models of cars do NOT have lights accessible from the trunk. In this case, it's better to focus your attention on finding a release cord.

Step Six

Even if you're not being abducted, you can take action. Ask a mechanic to help you install trunk releases with easy-to-identify tabs in case your car is used in a kidnapping. You could be saving a life.

Resources

- * [Resources on Child Abduction](#)

Photo/Video Credits * Novoscope

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5199001_escape-car-trunk.html

How to Talk to Your Child About Surviving an Abduction

By boatst

During World War II when countries were invaded by foreign troops, fathers told their daughters “The only thing you can’t survive is death.” In other words, if you’re beaten, raped, starved, held as a prisoner or otherwise humiliated, do what you have to do to stay alive. There are no rules that say to do this first and do that second because each case is different.

These are suggestions of what parents can suggest when talking to their children. Prevention is the best course but, unfortunately, children do get abducted. This is when a stranger, family member, non custodial parent or an acquaintance abducts a child. First tell your child to kick, scream, bite, do everything in their power to keep from being abducted, but if you fail to get away, there are some things that may make things easier.

Things You'll Need:

- Courage
- Survival Instinct

Step One

Keep trying to escape. Look around, try to keep track of where you're being taken or held captive. You'll be scared but try to stay calm.

Step Two

Look for escape routes if you're taken into a building. It helps to know the way out when you try to escape. If you fail it could be very hard on you.

Step Three

Try extra hard to escape if you know your abductor. (If it's someone the child can identify the abductor may kill to keep from being identified.)

Step Four

Let this person know you're human. Ask them small questions about their life. (You want the abductor to think of the child as a human, not a thing.)
Don't upset this person with too many questions

Step Five

Don't believe it when you're told that you're bad and your parents don't love you. Ignore it when this person tells you your parents don't want you anymore. These are just ways to control you and make you feel bad. Don't argue about it, but know in your heart that your parents love you very much and they are trying hard to find you. (Parents should let their kids know, just because you don't always agree on things you do love them)

Step Six

Don't listen when told your parents will be harmed. (Reassure your child that you can take care of yourself)

Step Seven

Never disagree with your abductor. Your abductor will be looking for reasons to harm you. Don't attract any attention to yourself; stay quiet and be as invisible as possible. Be observant and try to figure out what upsets your abductor. If crying upsets your abductor, stop crying

Step Eight

Cooperate with your abductor. Follow your survival instincts. Do whatever you have to do to stay alive. (When your child is abducted he/she are on their own, but knowing you care and haven't deserted them may give them that little extra push to survive.)

Tips & Warnings

Most of the attempted abductions of children fail.

Percentage of attempted abductions by age group:

Less than ten years 55% of attempted abductions fail

10 to 14 year age group 74% of attempted abductions fail

15 to 19 year age group 40 % of attempted abductions fail

25 to 28 year age group 30% of attempted abductions fail

Over 30 year age group 17% of attempted abductions fail

Girls in the 10 to 14 year old range make up the largest age group to be abducted.

Not all abductions end in murder.

Most victims are sexually or indecently assaulted

13 % of abductions involved weapons

All abductions involve physical violence.

Family members and acquaintances are more likely to murder than strangers

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5212368_talk-child-surviving-abduction.html

Chapter 8 Useful Information

How to Find Sexual Predators in Your Neighborhood

by Sara Jean Fisher

Sexual predators have posed a risk for children across the country for decades. Because of the danger that can arise from relocating a sexual predator to a neighborhood with children, various legislation has been enacted to create new and easy ways for individuals to find sexual predators living in their neighborhood. If you want to learn more about who lives around you and your children, read on to learn how to find sexual predators in your neighborhood.

Step One

Visit the Federal Sex Offender Registry.

The federal government keeps a national registry of sex offenders throughout the entire country. You can find the registry by visiting the address below.

<http://www.nsopw.gov/Core/Conditions.aspx>

There, you will be asked to review and agree to the terms of use, which prohibit the information on the registry from being used for any purpose other than informative. For instance, using the registry to find a sexual predators address for the sole purpose of harassing the individual is against the terms of service, and can be punishable under federal law. After agreeing, you will also need to successfully complete a CAPTCHA before you can enter the registry.

Step Two

Search for Sexual Predators in Your Neighborhood By Name.

After you are redirected to the registry, you will be able to search for sexual predators by first and/or last name. If you are unsure of the exact spelling of the name, try using only the first few letters of the last name, and the first letter of the first name. You must include at least three letters for the last name to search the National Sex Offender Registry.

Step Three

Search for Sexual Predators in Your Neighborhood By Location.

Since most of us don't know the names of the sexual predators we are looking for, the previous search function will be useless. Instead, you can search by state and/or zip code, to find all sexual predators living within your area. Click on the link next to "Advanced Search" ("click here") and you will find additional search fields. You can also use the link below to go directly to the advanced search page.

<http://www.nsopw.gov/Core/OffenderSearchCriteria.aspx?Advanced=1>

Choose your state from the drop-down menu, and then fill in the information for your county, city, and zip code. The more information you fill in, the more narrow your search results will be. If you are looking for sexual predators on your street, for example, you will want to fill in as much information about your location as possible. If you are more interested in seeing all sexual predators that live within your region, you may only want to fill in your state and county information.

Step Four

Search and Review Results.

After filling out the search form, click the "Search" button. On the next screen, you will see a list of results. If you see no results, you may have narrowed your search down too much; hit the back button on your browser and remove your city or zip code, and try again. Otherwise, you will be presented with a list of names for the sexual predators in your area, along with the city and state of their last registered address.

To learn more about a sexual predator on the registry, including their exact physical address, the crime(s) they committed, their conviction information, and detailed photographs of what each predator looks like, click on the name of the sexual predator you want to learn more about. If the registered offender has any aliases listed, you may also want to search for their aliases for additional information about them.

You can start your search again in a new area by returning to the search form using the bottom of the results page.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5202587_sexual-predators-neighborhood.html

How to Help Victims of Sexual Predators

By **Mitestarossa**

Have you been wondering how to help victims of sexual predators? You can, and you should help. Victims of sexual predators need compassion and need to be kept safe. Feeling safe is also very important for victims.

Step One

BEING THERE - Hang out with your friend or loved one who is a victim of a sexual predator. If they want to be alone, respect it, but don't go too far away just in case they need you. Don't force them to talk, just be there to listen. If they want to be distracted you can help them with that by watching a movie with them, taking a walk in a park or making ice cream sundaes together.

Step Two

COMFORT - Comfort the victim and do everything that you can, or that they request, to make them feel safe. Even if you think it is something silly, like leaving the lights on at night, etc., it does not feel silly to the victim. It is very important to the victims of sexual assaults that they feel safe. If necessary, you may need to move to a safer area. A change of scenery may be helpful to the victim.

Step Three

CREATE SAFETY - Create a safe environment for the victim. Statistics show that some victims, especially young children, of sexual assaults are victimized more than once in their lives and by more than one predator. It could be that these victims are not kept safe by their caretakers; both children, and adults, need to be protected after being attacked by a sexual predator.

Resources

- [Personal Safety & Security Secrets...Revealed](#)
- [Child Safety Products A..to..Z Guide](#)
- [How To Protect Your Child From Our Accident Epidemic](#)

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5051608_victims-sexual-predators.html

Chapter 9 Say a Prayer, Light a Candle

How to Pray for a Missing Child

by jimdris

There is no situation that is more frightening than that of a missing child. This article was written to give hope and encouragement in getting supernatural help for what may seem like an otherwise helpless dilemma.

Things You'll Need

- Faith in God
- Prayer Partners
- Humility

Step One

Believe that God has more than enough resources to rescue a child. He has armies of powerful angels waiting to do His bidding. Believe that when you humble yourself before God and pray, you have the power to release those resources, and to touch the very heart of God with your prayers. Approach God in prayer for the child not on your own merit but through the merit and power of the name of Jesus Christ.

Step Two

Remove anything that is hindering your faith when you pray for a missing child. Repent of any attitudes or habits that would hinder your faith in believing. If you sense there is a wall blocking your prayers, burst through it through fasting and prayer. Give your full attention and priority to achieving this breakthrough, so that you can confidently bring your request to God.

Step Three

Allow your faith to be built up by the realization that children are especially precious to God. In Mathew 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." In Mark 9:37, Jesus took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." In Matthew 18:10, Jesus said "See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." Therefore you can be absolutely confident that it is God's will for you to pray for a child that is in distress.

Step Four

Pray for the persons who have taken the child so that you can neutralize any evil forces that are influencing them. Pray that they will come to their senses and that compassion will enter their hearts. In Mathew 18:18, Jesus said "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Therefore you can effectively bind up any evil intentions and keep them bound up until the child is freed. Pray for a hedge of protection around the child, that they will suffer no harm despite their circumstances.

Step Five

Buddy up with someone else when you pray for a missing child. In Mathew 18:19 Jesus said, "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them." Put in prayer requests at your church and call prayer help lines at Christian organizations.

Step Six

Cast all doubts from your mind while you continue to pray and trust God for the safety of the missing child. Repel any negative thoughts that may come your way. Encourage those who are believing along with you and ignore any negative comments you may encounter. Quote scriptures such as Luke 1:37: "For nothing is impossible with God."

Step Seven

Don't forget to thank God profusely when the missing child returns!

Resources

- * [Missing Child Lindsey Baum](#)

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5190646_pray-missing-child.html

How to Light a Virtual Candle for a Loved One or Missing Child

by Lynn W

Lighting a candle for many people is a symbol of hope or in many cases because they want to remember someone that they love. Sometimes people light candles as they pray for the sick or the hurting. When something disastrous happens in a community, many times the members of that community will come together in a candle lit vigil as a way to remember or hope for the future. Lately, I have been reminded of the hope in lighting candles as our small eHow community has been hit with a tragedy. One of our members loves and cares for a little girl that has gone missing and through her many of us have also come to love and care for little Lindsey Baum. In searching out ways to help spread the news about Lindsey's disappearance, I came across the idea of "lighting" a virtual candle online. The beauty of "lighting" a candle online is you don't have to be physically with others to hold your vigil. If you have a loved one that you would like to remember or is sick and needs prayer, consider "lighting" a virtual candle for them.

Things You'll Need

- Computer

Step One

Go to www.gratefulness.org. This site allows you to set up a group to lit candles in or you can search for a group that you want to join in. This article is about starting a new group, though.

Step Two

Click on the word "features" that is along the left side of the page. Once you get to that page, scroll down until you see the word "candles". Click the words "candle group". Click on the words "My Candle Links".

Step Three

Fill in the information on the page. It will ask you what this candle is about, what language to use, choose some initials to identify your candles page. Then click "preview". Click the big letters "begin", then click "continue" and then click "enter".

Step Four

Click on the first candle that in on the page (there will be several to choose from). It will open to another page and click “continue”. Some boxes will come up and in the top box add what you would like to say to this person. Please keep in mind that this is a public forum so don’t say anything you would not what spread around. In the next box, put your initials. Then click “continue”.

Step Five

Add your country, state and name on the next page when they come up if you want them shown, then click “continue”.

Step Six

Read the message that you wrote to make sure it was correct, if not you have a chance to edit it. Then click on the wick of the candle to “light” it. Then click “continue”.

Step Seven

Answer whether or not you want to email the information to friends and family. If you hit “yes” it will ask for your e-mail information and then click “send message” and do this until you are done and click the word “done”. If you do not want to send an email, then click “no” and then click “return to candles...” When you have click this, you will be taken to your candle page.

Step Eight

Copy the URL for your page and make sure you give it to others that you want to “light” a candle with you.

Tips & Warnings

- The candles “burn” out in about 48 hours, so you will need to go back and light another one.

Resources

- * [To Light a Candle](#)
- * [To Light a Candle for Lindsey Baum](#)
- * [Please Help Find Lindsey Baum](#)
- * [Lindsey Baum website](#)
- * [Find Lindsey Baum](#)

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5203285_light-loved-one-missing-child.html

Chapter 10 What Happens When a Child is Found

How to Respond When You See a Missing Child

by jdds08

You are out and about running your errands and you spot a child you recognize as being listed as missing. What do you do? While it will be extremely challenging not to run up and save the child; you absolutely should not attempt a "rescue". There are steps to follow to ensure a safe outcome for everyone involved.

Things You'll Need

- Cell phone

Step One

Call 9-1-1 immediately. Remain calm and speak with a calm voice. You don't want to attract the attention of the abductor or the child. The 9-1-1 operator will have had some amount of training on how to best handle the situation and it is up to you to clearly and calmly provide information. You will be asked to remain on the line until the situation is resolved.

Step Two

Observe the abductor and the missing child from a distance. Relate everything you see, how they interact and describe the other people in the area. Responding officers need to know what they are facing when they arrive. Because the abductor may be armed, the police won't just rush in. Individuals who have been held hostage or kidnapped often bond with their abductors. This is called Stockholm Syndrome. It may be confusing to you how this could happen, but it does. It is also believed to play a major role in the victim's survival. A child suffering from this will respond negatively to rescue attempts so it is important that trained individuals execute a rescue.

Step Three

Tell the operator the location where you see the missing child. If they are entering a vehicle, provide a description of the vehicle and the license plate number. Chances are, you will want to follow the vehicle when it moves. Provide information of what direction you are moving. Provide a description of your car and your license plate number so responding officers will be able to identify your car also. Try your best not to "spook" the abductor and to not lose site of the vehicle. Stay on the phone and update your location as it changes.

Step Four

Observe how the abductor and the child are dressed, what color their hair is (many dye their hair or that of the missing child), if they are wearing sunglasses, carrying bags or any other descriptive information that will assist with police officers identifying them.

Step Five

When you see a squad car approaching, verify with the 9-1-1 operator that the officers are indeed there to intercept the abductor and the missing child. If they are, pull over and park. Do not get in the way of the responding police officers.

Step Six

Provide a physical description of yourself if this situation is occurring in a public place. Responding officers will want to be able to locate you. Remain on the line with the 9-1-1 center.

Step Seven

Continue to answer any questions that are asked of you. You may also have been transferred to a police officer at some point during the situation and they will continue asking questions. Once responding officers have identified you, you will be able to hang up. Once the abductor is in custody, and the missing child is safe, officers will want to question you so be available. Comply with any requests.

Tips & Warnings

- Don't try to be a hero and attempt a rescue, you could make the situation far worse. Just by spotting the missing child and calling 9-1-1 you are a hero.

Find this article at: http://www.ehow.com/how_5211477_respond-see-missing-child.html

[Lindsey Baum website](#)

[National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Children

by jdds08

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) develops after someone has experienced a traumatic event that involves the death, or the threat of death to themselves or another individual. Children who have been missing, abducted, sexually assaulted or tortured are at risk for developing PTSD. Siblings of these children may also be at risk. The following is a list of age specific symptoms. If any of these symptoms are observed in a child, it is necessary to get them psychological treatment immediately.

Very young or nonverbal children who don't "know the words" to explain how they are feeling:

- Stranger anxiety
- Separation anxiety
- Generalized anxiety
- Avoidance of situations that remind them of the trauma
- Pre-occupation with words or symbols related to the trauma
- Sleep disturbances
- Loss of previously mastered developmental skills
- Exaggerated startle response

Elementary school-aged children:

- Mis-sequencing of events related to the trauma (Time Skew)
- Believe there were warning signs before the traumatic event happened (Omen Formation)
- Believe they must remain alert at all times so they can prevent any other traumatic events from occurring
- Compulsively, and literally, reenacting part of the traumatic event without the action bringing relief of anxiety
- Recreating a behavioral aspect of the trauma
- Irritability
- Sleep disturbances
- Difficulty in school or concentrating
- Difficulties with peers
- Exaggerated startle response

Adolescents , teens and young adults:

- Compulsively, and literally, reenacting part of the traumatic event without the action bringing relief of anxiety.
- Incorporate aspects of the traumatic event into their daily lives and activities
- Become more impulsive
- Become more aggressive
- Intrusive recollections of the event through images, thoughts and perceptions
- Recurring nightmares
- Acting or feeling as if the event were occurring again
- Intense emotional distress or physical reaction when reminded or experiencing situations related to the event
- Continual avoidance of anything related to the trauma
- Irritability
- Sleep disturbances
- Difficulty in school or concentrating
- Difficulties with peers
- Exaggerated startle response
- Alcohol or drug use

[American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry](#)

[American Psychological Association](#)

[Understanding Posttraumatic Stress in Children](#)

[Find Lindsey Baum](#)

What Happens When a Missing Child is Found

by **jdds08**

Finding a child who has been abducted, or has otherwise been missing, is a joyous occasion for the child, their family, friends and even law enforcement agencies that are involved in the case.

Many things will begin to happen simultaneously once a child is recovered.

The child will be immediately taken to a hospital. At the hospital, they will undergo a comprehensive physical examination. This exam includes what was once known as a Vitullo kit and is now called a rape kit. Rape kits are designed in such a way that all of the evidence retrieved will be appropriately segregated and stored to avoid contamination of evidence. Clothing, shoes and any other accessories will be labeled and stored for forensic analysis. Swabs, fingernail scrapings and any other physical evidence will also be collected and stored separately. Photographs will be taken of any bruises, cuts, scrapes or other injuries. While this is an uncomfortable and frightening time for the child, it is absolutely vital that it be done. Trained professionals will be on hand to help the child as much as they possibly can throughout the entire process.

Law enforcement will interview the recovered child as soon as the physical examination is complete. While this may seem heartless to family members, it is necessary. Upon recovery, missing children tend to be in an euphoric frame of mind and it is easier to get information from them. Recovered children tend to withdraw into denial within a relatively short period of time. Law enforcement is not trying to keep family from the child, they are doing their job and doing what is required to bring the abductor to justice. The children often do not want to give some details in front of family in fear of their reactions so family is not allowed to be present at the time of the interview.

Law enforcement will cancel all of the alarms, the AMBER alert, remove the case from the NCIC, NCMEC and other databases. All agencies involved will be notified that the child has been recovered. An officer will inform the parents or guardians that they have recovered the missing child. They will inform them of the child's condition and the location of the medical facility.

Parents or guardians will be advised to bring a fresh change of clothing, shoes and comfort items for the child. They will also be advised to not contact the media and to only bring immediate family members with them. Mental health professionals and victim - witness advocates will also be notified to be there for the missing child and the family. It is usually acceptable to bring the family's spiritual advisor as well for the reunification.

A public relations officer will be assigned to handle the media attention and release a statement. Because this is an ongoing investigation, information will be limited. Family members are instructed to limit any and all information they relay regarding the case.

[Find Lindsey Baum](#)

What Happens When a Child is Reported Missing

by **jdds08**

When a child is discovered to be missing or has been abducted, it is a frightening and chaotic time. Family and friends of the child may feel as if nothing is being done, when in fact, a massive plan to recover the child has been set into motion.

Emergency telecommunication operators (9-1-1 in most places) are trained in what to do when they receive a call that a child has been abducted or is missing. These individuals gather the basic facts. They will ask for a physical description of the child, the abductor and any vehicles involved in the incident. A "Be On The Lookout" (BOLO) alert will be issued, with all known details and an officer will be dispatched to the area. The initial responding officer will be one who is the closest and usually patrols the area. The communications department will then go through files to determine if there have been any recent reports of attempted abductions, abductions, indecent exposure, rapes, burglaries, reports of prowlers, suspicious activity and

any other incidents that may be related in the area. They will also look for any incidents involving the child. They will notify the responding officer of any pertinent information. The information may also be broadcast over the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) at this time if circumstances are appropriate. This can be done at any point of the investigation. Fugitive search plans may also be activated at this point, or during any point in the investigation. All communications will be thoroughly documented and protocols for media involvement will be initiated.

The first officer on the scene may activate the patrol car camera to document the scene as they are arriving and will secure the location. They will conduct a preliminary investigation. The officer will verify that the child is missing, interview the family, determine any custody status issues regarding the child and verify the circumstances regarding the incident. The officer will determine who was the last person to see the child and interview everyone to determine where and at what time the child was last seen. They will make the initial determination of what type of incident it is. It can be a family abduction, stranger abduction, runaway or lost child. They will have received a more detailed description of the child, the abductor and any vehicle that was involved. This information will be relayed to communications to be forwarded to other officials and until a supervising officer is on scene, they will be responsible for relaying information. An initial judgement of whether or not to set an AMBER alert into motion will be made. The officer will relay this to the supervisor, who will determine if circumstances warrant the alert.

The first responding officer also determines how many additional personnel are needed and relays this information to communications. If a camera is available, he may begin to take pictures of any crowd that has gathered to be reviewed throughout the investigation. As additional officers arrive, they will be briefed on the situation. Witnesses and family members will be interviewed separately. They will be asked to provide identification and their relationship to the child. They will also be questioned on when they last had contact with the child and asked to provide any information they have about the incident and what they think happened to the child. Officers will also contact any friends and family of the child who are not present to determine when they last saw the child and where.

Officers will ask for permission to search the home if the incident occurred there. They will document that permission was given and by whom it was given. Even if the incident occurred elsewhere, law enforcement will need to search the child's home. The home will be searched for the child and any other clues regarding the child's whereabouts. Officers will make note of the condition of the home in general for investigative purposes. The child's bedroom will be sealed off so evidence can be collected and the scene investigated. Items such as clothing, sheets and blankets will be taken for evidence if needed and also for the scent tracking dogs. Items that have the child's DNA or fingerprints on them will also be taken to help in the search for the child or for identification purposes when needed. Any area of interest will be sealed off and guarded to prevent evidence from being destroyed.

Officers will determine if the child had access to the Internet or a cell phone and determine if they may contain information. These items will be taken in for forensic analysis. If the child has a cell phone with them, plans will be put in place to track any calls made to or from the phone.

Officers will systematically extend their search area to surrounding buildings, vehicles, wooded areas and anywhere else the child could possibly be. They will find out if there are any security cameras in the area that may have recorded the incident. Any areas of interest will be sealed off as a potential crime scene.

Officers will be informed by communications of any sex offenders who are known to live near, work near, or frequent the area. These individuals will be contacted and interviewed. Officers will continue to interview family, friends, neighbors and witnesses and will canvas the area for potential witnesses.

Within two hours of the initial contact, the responding officer is required to enter all of the known case information into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database with all appropriate flags added. The flags quickly identify what type of case it is and are useful in stranger abduction cases. If the abductor is known, this information will be placed in the NCIC Wanted Person file and flagged as a child abduction.

Once the law enforcement agency supervisor is on scene, they take over command. They will set up a command post close to the crime scene but far enough away that law enforcement officers can communicate without being overheard.

The supervising officer will determine the need for assistance from other agencies such as the state police, FBI, specialized units and the NCMEC Team Adam. They will determine if AMBER Alert guidelines have been met and issue the alert if they have not already done so. While there are specific guidelines to issuing an AMBER alert so it doesn't get misused, they are not set in stone. Special circumstances may prompt the law enforcement supervisor to activate the alert. This is up to the supervisor's discretion and is not to be taken lightly.

A primary investigator will be assigned to the case and dispatched. Upon arrival, the investigator will be briefed on the case and will then review and evaluate any and all information and evidence. He will interview again all witnesses and re-canvas the area. The primary investigator will perform this investigation with more detail than the first responding officers and will also investigate any secured scenes, ensure accuracy and validity of evidence and have it removed for analysis. He will also secure the child's dental, medical and psychological (if there are any) records. Another responsibility is to contact garbage companies and landfills in the area so they can segregate garbage from areas that are determined to be of interest in the case.

The investigator is also responsible for running criminal background checks on family and friends of the missing child, to delve deeper into their lives and arrange for polygraphs. The primary investigator also profiles the victim to better understand them and garner possible leads. Another responsibility is to follow up on leads and set up hot lines to get tips from the

public. These tip lines are managed in such a way as to prioritize leads and organize them quickly for the investigator to do follow up. The investigator may also delegate responsibilities to others on the team. He is also responsible for ensuring accurate, up-to-date information is entered into the NCIC.

It is important to remember that law enforcement agencies systematically follow guidelines that are set in place to bring quick resolution to these cases. The general public does not see behind the scenes of the investigation. While family and friends are terrified, broken hearted and even frustrated, they should rest assured law enforcement is doing all they can to bring the child home. Law enforcement officials may also request a victim/witness advocate to be on scene right away to explain the process to the family and support them in any way they can. The sad truth is, even though there are guidelines and plans in place, law enforcement learns more and more about abductors with every crime they commit. In turn, investigations into, and recoveries of, missing children become more fine tuned and accurate as time passes.

[Missing and Abducted Children: A Law-Enforcement Guide to Case Investigation and Program Management](#)
[Find Lindsey Baum](#)

AMBER Alert Guidelines

[National and State AMBER Alert Information](#)
[AMBER Alert Criteria](#)
[Find Lindsey Baum](#)

- Law enforcement believes, has confirmed or there is sufficient evidence that an abduction has occurred
- The victim is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death
- Adequate physical descriptions of the victim, the abductor and vehicle that is being used are available
- The victim is 17 years old or younger
- The case has been entered into the NCIC and flagged as an abduction

Special Circumstances (Also known as Tender Age)

- Child is 13 years old or younger
- Child is out of their designated "safety zone" as relates to their age and mental capacity. A 2 year old alone in the woods would be an example
- Child is mentally incapacitated (schizophrenic for example) or developmentally disabled (mentally retarded)
- Child depends on medications to stay alive, prescription and/or illegal drugs
- Has been missing for more than 24 hours before they were reported as missing
- Any available and valid information leading law enforcement to believe the child is in imminent danger of death
- Child is with someone who will compromise their welfare
- There are no reasonable explanations for the disappearance

[Missing and Abducted Children: A Law-Enforcement Guide to Case Investigation and Program Management](#)
[Find Lindsey Baum](#)

We would like to acknowledge, and offer our gratitude, to the retired Chicago homicide detective who contributed to the following articles while wishing to remain anonymous. Thank You

What to do When a Missing

Child Suddenly Reappears at Home

by **jdds08**

If your child, who has been missing or was abducted, suddenly returns home, call 9-1-1 immediately so police officers and emergency personnel can be dispatched.

Law enforcement officers understand that you will undoubtedly hug your child. While it may be extremely difficult, keep in mind their body is a crime scene. Evidence will be on their clothing, in their hair, on their skin, under their nails and possibly in their mouth. Do not, under any circumstances change their clothing, bathe them or "clean them up". If the child does not have clothing on, wrap them in a sheet. Have another family member grab an extra change of clothing for them and possibly for anyone who has hugged them. Officers will determine if they want other people's clothing due to possible evidence transfer. It is unlikely, but be prepared. The child will need a change of clothing and will be allowed to have a comfort item.

If a child you do not know appears at your home, dial 9-1-1 immediately. Bring the child into the safety of your home, lock the doors and follow instructions provided by the 9-1-1 operator.

What to Do if You Find a Body

by **jdds08**

If you come across the body of a missing child, or any body for that matter, immediately dial 9-1-1. While it may be very difficult to do, you should determine whether the person is actually still alive or if they are deceased. In this case, one person and only one person should approach the body. Inform the 9-1-1 operator whether the individual is alive or not so the appropriate agencies can be dispatched.

Great care must be taken in not disturbing the crime scene or moving the body. Disturb as little of the area as possible. Do not move the body at all, not even to turn the body over if the body is face down. Do your best to locate a pulse or determine whether or not they are breathing. The only time it is ever acceptable to move a body is when the body is in immediate and undeniable danger of being destroyed. Moving a body will essentially destroy evidence and a defense lawyer can argue that any evidence was compromised because an untrained civilian moved the body before law enforcement arrived. If you have to move the body for fear of it being destroyed, you will need to relay this information to the 9-1-1 operator immediately.

Follow the 9-1-1 operator's instructions as to whether you should stay where you are until police arrive or if you can move away from the body. Keep in mind you may carry evidence away from the scene so limit movement. Also keep in mind that you will have carried unrelated "items" into the scene. Any time a person arrives or leaves a location, they will pick up, or leave behind, tiny pieces of evidence that proves they were there. Inform responding officers of the exact route you took to reach the body. If you vomit, inform the first responding officers. They will need to make a note of this and mark the area off.

Don't touch or move anything in the area. You will destroy evidence. When the crime scene is processed, everything in the area is taken into account, even the position the body was found in and whether or not it was posed.

Responding officers will interview all witnesses so make note of who else is around. Pay particular attention to anyone trying to leave but don't attempt to stop them as they may be armed. While you are being interviewed, law enforcement will more than likely offer to have a victim/witness advocate meet with you. Don't turn down the offer; you will need to talk to someone about what you just experienced. They will also provide you with other resources to follow up on when you need them.

Chapter 11 Links and Resources

[Listen to a Song Written For Lindsey](#)

[YouTube Lindsey Baum Missing Child](#)

[National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Banners and Links](#)

[National and State AMBER Alert Information](#)

[International AMBER Alert Programs](#)

[LexisNexis\(r\) ADAM Program](#)

[Polly Klaas Foundation](#)

[Code Adam](#)

Association of Missing and Exploited Childrens Organizations. Click to find resources in your state. US and international site: <http://www.amecoinc.org/agencies.html>

National Center for Missing Youth, missing child online registration. Washington States charter AMECO. <http://www.operationlookout.org/>

Jacob Wetterling Resource Center. Checklists for families of missing children, books and resources for prevention education, information for Law Enforcement and government workers, and community notification training. <http://www.jwrc.org/>

National list of missing children. Includes each child's photo, stats, family web page, and missing child poster. 24-page safety guide and DNA ID documents in their FREE child safety kits, a free internet safety kit available as well. <http://www.pollyklaas.org/missing/>

[Google Gadget for Missing Children](#)

[Google Gadget for Amber Alerts](#)

[ICMEC/ YouTube Missing Children Channel](#)

[MySpace Widget](#)

[Missing Child Screensaver](#)

[Pictures Work!](#)

[Poster-Partner Program](#)

[RSS Feeds](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[Wireless AMBER Alerts](#)

[CyberTipline](#)

[NetSmartz](#)

[NetSmartz411](#)

[CHIP Child Victim Identification Program](#)

[Inhope](#)

[Think Before You Post](#)

[Help Delete Online Predators](#)

[Don't Believe The TypeHeroes Circle](#)

[Donate online](#)

[Take 25](#)

[CHIP Child ID Program](#)

[Buttons of Hope](#)

[Free Internet Safety Kit](#)

[Free Child Safety Kit](#)

[Be on the Look Out For](#)

24 hour Hotline list

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=186

Family Reunification ... list of companies providing free tickets home for the kids when they are found

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=526.

Missing-Child Clearing House

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=1421

Team HOPE Program

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=1583

Child Sexual Exploitation Investigation Assistance

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=195

Legal Resources for Child Sexual Exploitation Cases

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=985

Infant Abduction Prevention and Resources

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=199

Family Advocacy Services

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=1247

Minority Outreach Program

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=1561

Team ADAM

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=308

Age Progression and Facial Reconstruction Services

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=174

International Abduction Assistance

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=190

LOCATER

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=179

Project AL

http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/ServiceServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=180

[Know the Rules](#)

[Know the Rules...Abduction and Kidnapping](#)

[Know the Rules...Amusement or Theme Parks](#)

[Know the Rules...Displacement in Natural Disasters](#)

[Know the Rules...Door-to-Door Solicitation](#)

[Know the Rules...Flying Unaccompanied](#)

[Know the Rules...For Children Who Are Home Alone](#)

[Know the Rules...General Tips Parents and Guardians](#)

[Know the Rules...Going To/From School More Safely](#)

[Know the Rules...Halloween Safety Tips](#)

[Know the Rules...Holiday Safety Tips](#)

[Know the Rules...Summer Safety Tips for Parents/Guardians](#)

[Know the Rules...Summer Safety Tips to Teach Children](#)

[Know the Rules...Traveling Outside Of/To the United States](#)

[Know the Rules...Traveling Unaccompanied Bus/Train](#)

[Know the Rules...Youth Sports](#)

<http://www.projectsafekids.org/>

<http://www.lrcf.net/LRCFoundation.org/LRCManual/index.html>

US Newspaper Links <http://www.usnpl.com/>

A Missing Child is Everyone's Child

Below is a list in alphabetical order of the people who have contributed in bringing this ebook to you. There were many more who helped guide us with their support on the eHow forums. Click on their names to read more about them.

The eHow Community



Lindsey Baum

[AskLucy](#)
[atomiccafe](#)
[Boatst](#)
[cyclegirl98](#)
[edieness](#)
[Ethel Powers](#)
[georgelarson](#)
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Thank You

A Message To My Child

*Where could you be, sweet child of mine?
My heart grows heavier with passing time.*

*No news comes with each waking day
But I can't give up so I continue to pray
that my baby knows the love in my heart
and if my choice, we'd not be apart.*

*Please come home my little one
for when all is said and all is done
there is no heavier cross to bear
than the loss of a child for whom we care
more than for that of anything else
A love far deeper than that for ourself.*

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