

Fight Back Kids

- Hey kids, have you ever been separated from your mom or dad? Way scary, right? That's just how your mom and dad feel when you're missing!
- Has a stranger ever tried to get you into their car or grabbed you? That's the ultimate scare!



- You think it's no big deal when you wander away from your parents in the store or when you don't tell your parents where you're going to be ... right?



- Wrong! Your mom and dad are so scared when they can't find you!



- When you wander off or you're just hanging out with your friends you eventually come back and everything is cool!



- It's not always like that when you get into a stranger's car or let them take you somewhere ...that's a bigger deal!
- Some kids don't come back because they've been abducted.
- Being abducted means someone has taken you away against your will.
- When you're abducted people do bad things to you, or tell you to do things to them that don't feel right or good to you.



- Do you even know what an abductor looks like?
- Can you see them in the street or pick them out of a crowd?
- Kidnappers don't look any different than you and me.
- They don't act differently.
- It's not easy to know if you're near a kidnapper.

- A kidnapper will want to be your friend.
- They might offer you candy or presents.



- They might tell you that they want you to help them find their lost puppy.
- They might tell you that your mom or dad was in an accident and they're there to take you to your mom or dad.

Remember one thing ...

they can hurt you!

DON'T

- X Want's to play with you
- X Asks you to go with him/her
- X Tries to have a conversation with you, or touch you while you're at the movies, playground or walking anywhere
- X Offers you a ride, candy, gum, presents or money
- X Asks you to play a game
- X Asks you to help find their lost puppy

DO



- Y Tell someone !
- Y Play safe!
- Y Stay away from alleys or deserted buildings.
- Y Use the buddy system. Always take a friend when you go to playgrounds, movies, stores, etc.
- Y Get home before dark.
- Y Play in safe places - not in strange places
- Y Phone home to tell your parents where you are if you change locations or will be late

DO

Y If someone tells you your mom or dad have been in an accident - it is a trick!

Ask them for your parents name and password that you and your parents have made up and only you and your parents know about.

If they don't know the password

DON'T GO

Y **Say NO!**

Y **Get Away!**



Y **If anyone approaches you who you don't know, no matter who they tell you they are...WALK AWAY!**

Y **Wave your arms in circles while you scream **FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!** as loud as you can**

- If they try to grab you, scream real loud and run away as fast as you can.
- Kick, bite, punch, elbow ...do whatever you have to do to get away.



- Remember that a kidnapper can only hurt you if they can take you away somewhere.

The best way to do that is in a car ... so don't go near or get into the car.



- If you are walking and a car pulls up next to you and you can't hear what the person inside is saying ... It doesn't matter what they are saying,
BACK UP and **RUN AWAY**.

Run toward the back of the car. That makes it hard for the driver to chase you.

- If you don't see a police officer anywhere, find a store, or a place where there are a lot of people and get help.
- If you are taken away, your abductor will probably tell you your parents didn't want you anymore.

Never ever believe that.

It's not true!

- Check for permission from your parents before getting into a car, or leaving with anyone ... even if it's someone you know.
- Check first before changing plans or accepting money, or gifts without your parents' knowledge.

- **Say NO** if someone tries to touch you in ways that make frighten you, confuse you, or make you feel uncomfortable. Then go and tell a grown-up who you trust what happened.
- It is never your fault if someone touches you in a way that is not O.K.
- You don't ever have to keep secrets about those touches.

- Always trust your feelings and talk to grown-ups about problems that are too big for you to handle on your own.
- There are a lot of people care who about you, and they'll listen and believe you.
- You're not alone!

- It is never too late to ask for help.
- Keep asking until you get the help you need.
- You are so special and you deserve to feel safe.

- Luckily, most kids who are abducted are returned home safely.
- Child abduction is rare, but remember to always think and use common sense in every situation.

PARENTS

**PROTECT CHILDREN FROM
KIDNAPPING AND
STRANGER DANGER**

- Child abduction by a stranger usually ends badly.
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- Each year, approximately 58,000 missing children are abducted by non-family members.
- Typically, strangers who kidnap children commit their crimes with intent to harm their young victims.
- In nearly 80 percent of non-family child abductions cases, the victim is sexually assaulted or physically abused by the perpetrator.

- Every day, these offenders lure unsuspecting children into vehicles and homes.
- Most of these kids are not prepared for the reality of "stranger danger" and, therefore, tend to trust unknown adults.

- Most abducted children are eventually recovered.
- The majority of these children return home with visible or emotional scars.
- A small number of kidnapped children are never located.
- And, in rare instances, some abducted children are murdered by the stranger who betrayed their trust.

- Despite the grim statistics, you have the ability to reduce the likelihood of child abduction.
- By joining other parents and collectively teaching your kids the importance of stranger danger, you can stop these appalling crimes before they happen.

- In order to keep children safe, you should practice basic stranger-safety procedures with your children and encourage other parents to follow your guidelines:
- Tell your children to always walk or play in groups.
- Predators search for isolated targets such as children who are walking alone or playing alone.
- Share this important lesson with other parents.

- If you see a friend or neighbor's young child walking alone, make sure to include that particular neighbor in your stranger-danger strategy.
- For instance, you could suggest a buddy or carpool plan to get neighboring children to and from school.

- You should always know where your kids are going, even if they leave the house with another trusted adult.
- If your children spend time at their friends' homes, you should discuss a mutual child-watch plan with other parents.
- If your children are young, explain to these parents that you do not allow your children to play outside unsupervised.
- Promise to keep a similar close watch on their children when they play at your house.

- If your children walk or ride their bikes to other nearby houses, designate safe places for your child to run if threatened by a stranger.
- Keep a list of phone numbers of other nearby parents and offer your numbers to these parents. You can quickly check on the location of your children if needed.
- Teach your kids about strangers. Tell them that a stranger is any adult they do not know.

- Introduce your children to other parents you trust.
- Meet the children of these parents, so you will become a familiar face to the kids.
- Ideally, these children will be able to pick out a few friendly adults in a crowd of strangers.
- In addition to other parents, your kids should know which strangers are safe.

- Store clerks, police officers, teachers, people who are behind desks in office buildings, mail-carriers and mothers with children are generally safe strangers.
- Explain to your children that they can trust these strangers if they ever need help and they cannot locate an adult they recognize.
- Teach your children that stores, schools, libraries and restaurants are all safe public places where they can run if they are in jeopardy.

- Practice a secret code word with your children. Choose a word that would not be easy for a stranger to guess.
- Use this code word when another adult is required to transport your child. Tell your kids they should never get into a car with someone who does not know the code word.
- Share the code word with your children and other adults you trust. Change the word as often as needed.
- Instruct other parents to develop their own family code words.

- Teach your kids about the common lures used by abductors.
- Often, a kidnapper appeals to victims by asking the child to help find a lost animal.
- Sometimes, the stranger will ask a child for directions.
- Occasionally, abductors know the child's name or the names of the child's parents.
- Perpetrators attempt to use this knowledge to gain the child's trust.

- You should tell your children that adults ask other adults for help when they are truly searching for lost pets, or when they need any other type of assistance.
- Also, repeat to your children the importance of the family code word.
- If a stranger knows the child's name, but does not mention the code word, that stranger is probably a threat.

- Practice screaming with your children.
- If a stranger attempts to talk to or grab your children, your children should know to shout, "**No!**" or "**Fire!**"
- Try to recruit the help of other parents.
- The group of your children can rehearse screaming at strangers by role-playing.