

Crime Tip Prevention

Ten Things Adults Can Do To Stop Violence

- Set up a Neighborhood Watch or a community patrol, working with police.
- Make sure your streets and homes are well-lit.
- Make sure that all the youth in the neighborhood have positive ways to spend their spare time, through organized recreation, tutoring programs, part-time work, and volunteer opportunities.
- Build a partnership with police, focused on solving problems instead of reacting to crises. Make it possible for neighbors to report suspicious activity or crimes without fear of retaliation.
- Take advantage of "safety in numbers" to hold rallies, marches, and other group activities to show you're determined to drive out crime and drugs.

Ten Things Adults Can Do To Stop Violence

- Clean up the neighborhood! Involve everyone - teens, children, senior citizens. Graffiti, litter, abandoned cars, and run-down buildings tell criminals that you don't care about where you live or each other.
- Ask local officials to use new ways to get criminals out of your building or neighborhood. These include enforcing anti-noise laws, housing codes, health and fire codes, anti-nuisance laws, and drug-free clauses in rental leases.
- Work with schools to establish drug-free zones.
- Work with recreation officials to do the same for parks.
- Develop and share a phone list of local organizations that can provide counseling, job training, guidance, and other services that can help neighbors.

Ten Things Kids Can Do To Stop Violence

- Settle arguments with words, not fists or weapons. Don't stand around and form an audience.
- Learn safe routes for walking in the neighborhood, and know good places to seek help. Trust your feelings, and if there's a sense of danger, get away fast.
- Report any crimes or suspicious actions to the police, school authorities, and parents. Be willing to testify if needed.
- Don't open the door to anyone you and your parents don't know and trust.
- Never go anywhere with someone you and your parents don't know and trust.

Ten Things Kids Can Do To Stop Violence

- If someone tries to abuse you, say no, get away, and tell a trusted adult. Remember, it's not the victim's fault.
- Don't use alcohol and other drugs, and stay away from places and people associated with them.
- Stick with friends who are also against violence and drugs, and stay away from known trouble spots.
- Get involved to make school safer and better - having poster contests against violence, holding anti-drug rallies, counseling peers, settling disputes peacefully. If there's no program, help start one!
- Help younger children learn to avoid being crime victims. Set a good example and volunteer to help with community efforts to stop crime.

Test Your "Street Smarts" IQ: Do you...

- Jog or walk by yourself early in the morning or late at night when the streets are quiet and deserted?
- Stuff your purse with cash, keys, credit cards, checkbook - and then leave it wide open on a counter, your desk, the floor?
- Put your wallet in a jacket, which you then hang up or throw over a chair?
- Let your mind wander - thinking about your job, or all the things you have to do - when walking or driving?
- Think it's a waste of time to lock your car when you'll be back in a few minutes?

Test Your "Street Smarts" IQ: Do you...

- **If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you need to change a few habits.**
- Even if you answered "no" and made a perfect score, read on. Spend a few minutes now to prevent trouble later.

Basic Street Sense

- Wherever you are - on the street, in an office building or shopping mall, driving, waiting for a bus or subway - stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings.
- Send the message that you're calm, confident, and know where you're going.
- Trust your instincts. If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave.
- Know the neighborhoods where you live and work. Check out the locations of police and fire stations, public telephones, hospitals, and restaurants, or stores that are open late.

On Foot

- Stick to well-traveled streets. Avoid shortcuts through wooded areas, parking lots, or alleys.
- Don't flash large amounts of cash or other tempting targets like expensive jewelry or clothing.
- Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps.
- Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket, not a back pocket.
- Try to use automated teller machines in the daytime. Have your card in hand and don't approach the machine if you're uneasy about people nearby.
- Don't wear shoes or clothing that restrict your movements.

On Foot

- Have your car or house key in hand before you reach the door.
- If you think someone is following you, switch direction or cross the street. Walk toward an open store, restaurant, or lighted house. If you're scared, yell for help.
- Have to work late? Make sure there are others in the building, and ask someone - a colleague or security guard - to walk you to your car or transit stop.

Learn More About Auto Theft and Carjacking.

- Keep your car in good running condition. Make sure there's enough gas to get where you're going and back.
- Always roll up the windows and lock car doors, even if you're coming right back. Check inside and out before getting in.
- Avoid parking in isolated areas. Be especially alert in lots and underground parking garages.
- If you think someone is following you, don't head home.
- Drive to the nearest police or fire station, gas station, or other open business to get help.
- Don't pick up hitchhikers. Don't hitchhike.

On Buses and Subways

- Use well-lighted, busy stops.
- Stay alert! Don't doze or daydream.
- If someone harasses you, don't be embarrassed. Loudly say "Leave me alone!" If that doesn't work, hit the emergency device.
- Watch who gets off with you. If you feel uneasy, walk directly to a place where there are other people.

If Someone Tries To Rob You

- Don't resist. Give up your property, don't give up your life.
- Report the crime to the police.
- Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent others from becoming victims.

Things You Can Do and Things Kids Can Do

Take a Stand

- Make your neighborhood and workplace safer by reporting broken street lights, cleaning up parks and vacant lots, and lobbying local government for better lighting in public places.
- Join a Neighborhood, Apartment, or Office Watch to look out for each other and help the police. Or find out how you can organize a neighborhood watch.

Things You Can Do and Things Kids Can Do

- Help out a friend or co-worker who's been a victim of crime.
- Cook a meal, babysit, find the number for victim services or a crisis hotline.
- Listen, sympathize, and don't blame.
- Look at the root causes.
- Work for better drug treatment services, crime and drug abuse prevention education, and job and recreational opportunities for young people in your community.

Telemarketing Scams and What to Look For

- Many legitimate companies sell their products or services through telemarketing by either calling consumers or advertising a number for consumers to call. Charities also use telemarketing techniques, unfortunately fraudulent telemarketers rob people every day, using phones as their weapons.
- Know who you're dealing with. If the company or charity is unfamiliar, check it out with your province or local consumer protection agency and the Better Business Bureau.

Telemarketing Scams and What to Look For

- Be aware that "no complaint" is no guarantee. Fraudulent operators open and close quickly, so the fact that no one has made a complaint yet doesn't mean that the company or charity is legitimate. You still need to look for other danger signs of fraud.

Telemarketing Scams and What to Look For

- Don't believe promises of easy money. If someone claims that you can earn money with little or no work, get a loan or credit card even if you have bad credit or make money on an investment with little or no risk, it's probably a scam. One should always remember, that an offer that sounds too good to be true, probably is.
- Think twice before entering contests operated by unfamiliar companies. Fraudulent marketers sometimes use contest entry forms to identify potential victims.

Telemarketing Scams and What to Look For

- Never pay to play. It's illegal for a company to require you to buy something or pay a fee in order to win or claim a prize. Buying something doesn't improve your chances of winning.
- Resist pressure. Legitimate companies will be happy to send you detailed information and give you time to make a decision. It is probably a scam if the marketer demands that you act immediately or will not take "No" for an answer.
- Guard your personal information. Only provide your credit card or bank account number when you are actually paying for something. Do not give your social security number to a telemarketer.

Telemarketing Scams and What to Look For

- A common scam to be aware of is the "Lottery Scam". The potential victims are contacted over the phone and are told that they have won several million dollars in a lottery.
- However in order to receive the winning money, the victims are told that they need to pay taxes on the winning money, usually several thousand dollars. The victims are instructed to send cashiers checks to various post office box locations in either Canada or another country, defrauding the victims of their money.

Preventing Fraud

- It's not always easy to spot con artists. They're smart, extremely persuasive, and aggressive. They invade your home by telephone and mail, advertise in well-known newspapers and magazines, and come to your door.
- Most people think they're too smart to fall for a scam. But con artists rob all kinds of people - from investment counselors and doctors to teenagers and elderly widows - of billions of dollars every year.
- **Just remember... if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.**

Preventing Fraud

You Can Protect Yourself!

- Never give a caller your credit card, phone card, Social Security, or bank account number over the phone. It's illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to verify a prize or gift.
- Beware of 900 numbers. People who call 900 numbers to request instant credit often end up with a booklet on how to establish credit or a list of banks offering low-interest credit cards. Such calls can end up costing \$50 or more, but consumers rarely end up obtaining credit.

Preventing Fraud

- Listen carefully to the name of a charity requesting money.
- Fraudulent charities often use names that sound like a reputable, well-known organization such as the Canadian Cancer Association (instead of the Canadian Cancer Society).
- Ask for a financial report before you donate; a reputable charity will always send you one.
- Investigate before you invest. Never make an investment with a stranger over the phone. Beware of promises that include the terms "get rich quick," or "a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Be a Wise Consumer

- Don't buy health products or treatments that include: a promise for a quick and dramatic cure, testimonials, imprecise and non-medical language, appeals to emotion instead of reason, or a single product that cures many ills. Quackery can delay an ill person from getting timely treatment.

Be a Wise Consumer

- Look closely at offers that come in the mail. Con artists often use official-looking forms and bold graphics to lure victims. If you receive items in the mail that you didn't order, you are under no obligation to pay for them - throw them out, return them, or keep them.
- Be suspicious of ads that promise quick cash working from your home. After you've paid for the supplies or a how-to book to get started, you often find there's no market for the product and there's no way to get your money back.

Be a Wise Consumer

- Beware of cheap home repair work that would otherwise be expensive, regardless of the reason given. The con artist may just do part of the work, use shoddy materials and untrained workers, or simply take your deposit and never return.
- Use common sense in dealing with auto repairs. One mechanic convinced a woman that she needed to have the winter air in tires replaced with summer air! Get a written estimate, read it carefully, and never give the repair shop a blank check to "fix everything."

Protect Yourself From Telemarketing Fraud

- Your best protection is to just hang up the phone. If you think that is rude, tell these callers politely that you are not interested, don't want to waste their time, and please don't call back - and then hang up.
- If you find yourself caught up in a sales pitch, remember the federal government's Telemarketing Sales Rule.

Protect Yourself From Telemarketing Fraud

- You have to be told the name of the company, the fact that it is a sales call, and what's being sold. If a prize is being offered, you have to be told immediately that there is no purchase necessary to win.
- If the caller says you've won a prize, you cannot be asked to pay anything for it. You can't even be required to pay shipping charges. If it is a sweepstakes, the caller must tell you how to enter without making a purchase.

Protect Yourself From Telemarketing Fraud

- You cannot be asked to pay in advance for services such as cleansing your credit record, finding you a loan, acquiring a prize they say you've won. You pay for services only if they're actually delivered.
- You shouldn't be called before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. If you tell telemarketers not to call again, they can't. If they do, they have broken the law.

Protect Yourself From Telemarketing Fraud

- If you're guaranteed a refund, the caller has to tell you all the limitations.
- **And remember, don't give telemarketers your credit card number, your bank account number, Social Security number - or authorize bank drafts - EVER.**

Raising Streetwise Kids

Would Your Child Know What To Do If...

- He got lost at a shopping mall?
- A nice-looking, friendly stranger offered her a ride home after school?
- A friend dared him to drink some beer or smoke a joint?
- The babysitter or a neighbor wanted to play a secret game?

Raising Streetwise Kids

- A great thing about kids is their natural trust in people, especially in adults. It's sometimes hard for parents to teach children to balance this trust with caution.
- But kids today need to know common-sense rules that can help keep them safe - and build the self-confidence they need to handle emergencies.

Raising Streetwise Kids

Start with the Basics

- Make sure your children know their full name, address (city and state), and phone number with area code.
- Be sure kids know to call 9-1-1 or "0" in emergencies and how to use a public phone. Practice making emergency calls with a make-believe phone.
- Tell them never to accept rides or gifts from someone they and you don't know well.

Raising Streetwise Kids

- Teach children to go to a store clerk, security guard, or police officer for help if lost in a mall or store or on the street.
- Set a good example with your own actions - lock doors and windows and see who's there before opening the door.
- Take time to listen carefully to your children's fears and feelings about people or places that scare them or make them feel uneasy. Tell them to trust their instincts.

Raising Streetwise Kids

At School and Play

- Encourage your children to walk and play with friends, not alone. Tell them to avoid places that could be dangerous - vacant buildings, alleys, playgrounds or parks with broken equipment and litter.
- Teach children to settle arguments with words, not fists, and to walk away when others are arguing. Remind them that taunting and teasing can hurt friends and make enemies.
- Make sure your children are taking the safest routes to and from school, stores, and friends' houses. Walk the routes together and point out places they could go for help.

Raising Streetwise Kids

- Encourage kids to be alert in the neighborhood, and tell an adult - you, a teacher, a neighbor, a police officer - about anything they see that doesn't seem quite right.
- Check out the school's policies on absent children - are parents called when a child is absent?
- Check out daycare and after-school programs - look at certifications, staff qualifications, rules on parent permission for field trips, reputation in the community, parent participation, and policies on parent visits.

Raising Streetwise Kids

At Home Alone

- Leave a phone number where you can be reached. Post it by the phone, along with numbers for a neighbor and emergencies - police and fire departments, paramedics, and the poison control center.
- Have your child check in with you or a neighbor when he or she gets home. Agree on rules for having friends over and going to a friends' house when no adult is home.
- Make sure your child knows how to use the window and door locks.

Raising Streetwise Kids

- Tell your child not to let anyone into the home without your permission, and never to let a caller at the door or on the phone know there's no adult home. Kids can always say their parents are busy and take a message.
- Work out an escape plan in case of fire or other emergencies.
- Rehearse it with your children.

Raising Streetwise Kids

Protecting Your Child Against Sexual Abuse

- Let your child know that he or she can tell you anything, and that you'll be supportive.
- Teach your child that no one - not even a teacher or a close relative - has the right to touch him or her in a way that feels uncomfortable, and that it's okay to say no, get away, and tell a trusted adult.
- Don't force kids to kiss or hug or sit on a grown-up's lap if they don't want to. This gives them control and teaches them that they have the right to refuse.

Raising Streetwise Kids

- Always know where your child is and who he or she is with.
- Tell your child to stay away from strangers who hang around playgrounds, public restrooms, and schools.
- Be alert for changes in your child's behavior that could signal sexual abuse such as sudden secretiveness, withdrawal from activities, refusal to go to school, unexplained hostility toward a favorite babysitter or relative, or increase anxiety.

Raising Streetwise Kids

- Some physical signs of abuse include bedwetting, loss of appetite, venereal disease, nightmares, and complaints of pain or irritation around the genitals.
- If your child has been sexually abused, report it to the police or a child protection agency immediately.
- If your child is a victim of any crime, from stolen lunch money to sexual abuse, don't blame him or her. Listen and offer sympathy

Child Safety

- Children are our most precious resource.
- Unfortunately, because of their vulnerability, children are popular targets for molesters, drug dealers, and other predatory criminals.
- By working with children and teaching them crime prevention measures, we can substantially reduce the chances of child victimization.

Child Safety

- An important tool for teaching children personal security is reinforcing their trust in the adults who care for them, e.g., parents, police and teachers.
- To further lessen the chances of children becoming victims, the following objectives should be stressed:

Child Safety

Reassurance:

- Inform your children they can be safer if they form good habits and follow some simple rules.
- One good rule for children to remember is:
never go anywhere with anyone without their parents' permission

Child Safety

Openness:

- Encourage your children to confide in you, even if the subject feels uncomfortable

Child Safety

Strangers:

- Teach your children the difference between good strangers and bad strangers.
- Good strangers are police officers, teachers and firefighters.
- Children should seek assistance from them if they are in trouble.
- Children should avoid other strangers

Child Safety

Secrets:

- Discourage your children from keeping bad secrets.
- A bad secret is when an adult tells a child to keep information from the child's parents or guardian.
- An example would be an adult offering a child candy to get into his or her car and then telling the child not to tell anyone.

Child Safety

Secrets:

- Another example would be if an adult tries to touch the private body parts of a child and then tells the child not to tell anyone.
- Private body parts are parts of the body covered by a bathing suit.

Child Safety

- Child molesters have also been known to approach children and fake a family emergency.
- A good example would be a child molester who drives to a school bus stop and tells a child, "Your dad is hurt and your mom wants you to come with me to the hospital."
- The chances are high that a child placed in this circumstance might be tempted to get into the car.

Child Safety

- That is why parents should select a family code word that they and their children know.
- If a stranger does not know the code word, the children will know not to trust him or her.
- A good secret is keeping a family code word confidential.

Children Should Know

- The definition of an emergency and when to contact police, fire or paramedics
- Their full name, address, and telephone number, including area code
- Their parents' full name and work telephone number
- How and when to use 9-1-1 and how to use a public telephone
- How to use the telephone to call home

Children Should Know

- That they should check in with you or a trusted neighbor when he or she gets home from school so you always know where they are
- Where to go for safety if you are not around
- The location of Safe Houses in their neighborhood and the ability to recognize the Safe House Placards
- Always keep doors locked, even during the day
- Anyone they don't know is a stranger

Children Should Know

- Stay away from cars occupied by strangers
- Never open doors for strangers
- Never tell anyone who comes to the door (or anyone who calls on the telephone) that they are alone
- When answering the telephone, never give information to strange callers
- It's OK to say NO to an adult if the adult makes them feel uncomfortable or wants them to do something they feel is bad

Children Should Know

- Never let anyone touch them where their underwear or swimsuit should cover
- It's OK to run away and scream "HELP" or "FIRE" if someone tries to make them do something they don't want to do
- It's OK to tell if someone offers them gifts or money, or wants to photograph them
- How to describe a person's appearance, clothing and their car if they are ever approached by a stranger
- Run to other people and to lighted areas if they are being followed

Children Should Know

- Stay near parents while in a store or other public places
- Never go out to a parking lot if they get separated from parents in a shopping center or mall
- Go to the nearest check out counter and ask a cashier or clerk for assistance if they get lost in a store
- What to do if they should become lost in a crowd
- Stay in one place if they get lost
- Never go into a public restroom alone
- Never play in abandoned buildings.

Rules For Parents

- Encourage your children to communicate with you. If someone is causing them to be anxious, fearful, or concerned for their safety, but has not attempted overt acts, parents need to know about it
- Never leave your children unattended
- Know where your children are at all times

Rules For Parents

- Know your children's friends, where they live and their telephone numbers
- Listen to your children when they tell you they don't want to be with someone and ask why
- Get to know your neighbors, especially in a new neighborhood

Rules For Parents

- Have your children's school or day care center personnel call immediately if your children are absent
- Use extreme caution when selecting a babysitter, preschool or day care center. Check their references and have face-to-face meetings with the babysitter, preschool and day care center personnel who will be looking after your children

Marked Clothing

- It is not recommended that children wear clothing with their name prominently displayed.
- Children may respond to a stranger who calls them by name.
- If you must mark your child's clothing, don't put the name in an obvious place. Instead, mark the inner lining of a hat or jacket.

Family Safety Plan

- Should an emergency occur and someone is designated to pick up your children, make sure you've discussed a code word with your children in advance.
- The code word acts as a signal to your children that you have sent an authorized person to act on your behalf.
- Parents should stress the importance of keeping the code word a secret.

Family Safety Plan

Who to Call

- In the event your child is missing, spread the word by calling the police, hospitals, schools, neighbors and especially your child's friends.
- Contact every possible source of help.

Family Safety Plan

Safety Identification

Keep an up-to-date identification file of your children. This file should include:

- A recent photograph;
- A physical description that includes height, weight, hair color, eye color, distinguishing marks and birth date;
- A set of fingerprints or thumbprints; and
- A mental note of what your children were wearing when you last saw them.

Summary

- We have attempted to establish a "crime prevention attitude" for parents and children.
- The importance of practicing a "crime prevention attitude" cannot be stressed enough!
- Play crime prevention roles with your children and teach them how to respond. If properly prepared, your children will automatically take the correct crime prevention action in a dangerous situation.
- It is important to practice with your children and to encourage a "crime prevention attitude" in their daily lives.

At Home Alone - A Parent's Guide

- Your ten-year-old comes home from school at 3:00, but you don't get home from work until 5:00.
- He's at home alone for those two hours every weekday.
- What does he do until your arrive?

At Home Alone - A Parent's Guide

- Most likely, he gets a snack or talks on the phone. Maybe he watches TV, but since you're not there, you worry.
- Just like the majority of Canadian parents who work and have to leave their children on their own after school everyday, you are anxious about your child's safety.
- But by following the safeguards listed below, you can help ease some of this worry and take measures that will protect your kids even when you're not around.

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Can your children. . .

- Be trusted to go straight home after school?
- Easily use the telephone, locks, and kitchen appliances?
- Follow rules and instructions well?
- Handle unexpected situations without panicking?
- Stay alone without being afraid?

At Home Alone - A Parent's Guide

What You Can Do

- Make sure your children are old enough and mature enough to care for themselves.
- Teach them basic safety rules.
- Know the three "W's":
 - **Where** your kids are
 - **What** they're doing
 - **Who** they're with

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Curiosity...

- Are there things you don't want your children to get into?
- Take the time to talk to them about the deadly consequences of guns, medicines, power tools, drugs, alcohol, cleaning products, and inhalants.
- Make sure you keep these items in a secure place out of sight and locked up, if possible.

At Home Alone - A Parent's Guide

- Hang emergency numbers by the phone and teach your children to use them.
- Teach Your "Home Alone" Children To check in with you or a neighbor immediately after arriving home.

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Teach them basic safety rules

- How to call 9-1-1, or your area's emergency number, or call the operator.
- How to give directions to your home, in case of emergency.
- To never accept gifts or rides from people they don't know well.
- How to use the door and window locks, and the alarm system if you have one.

At Home Alone - A Parent's Guide

Teach them basic safety rules

- To never let anyone into your home without asking your permission.
- To never let a caller at the door or on the phone know that they're alone. Teach them to say "Mom can't come to the phone (or door) right now."
- To carry a house key with them in a safe place (inside a shirt pocket or sock). Don't leave it under a mat or on a ledge outside the house.

At Home Alone - A Parent's Guide

Teach them basic safety rules

- How to escape in case of fire.
- To not go into an empty house or apartment if things don't look right - a broken window, ripped screen, or opened door.
- To let you know about anything that frightens them or makes them feel uncomfortable.

At Home Alone - A Parent's Guide

Take a Stand

- Work with schools, religious institutions, libraries, recreational and community centers, and local youth organizations to create programs that give children ages 10 and older a place to go and something to do after school - a "homework haven," with sports, crafts, classes and tutoring.

At Home Alone - A Parent's Guide

Take a Stand

- Don't forget that kids of this age can also get involved in their communities. Help them design and carry out an improvement project!
- Ask your workplace to sponsor a Survival Skills class for employees' children. You can kick it off with a parent breakfast or lunch. Ask your community to develop a homework hotline latchkey kids can call for help or just to talk.

At Home Alone - A Parent's Guide

Take a Stand

- Join or start a block parent program in your community to offer children help in emergencies or frightening situations