



Stranger Danger!

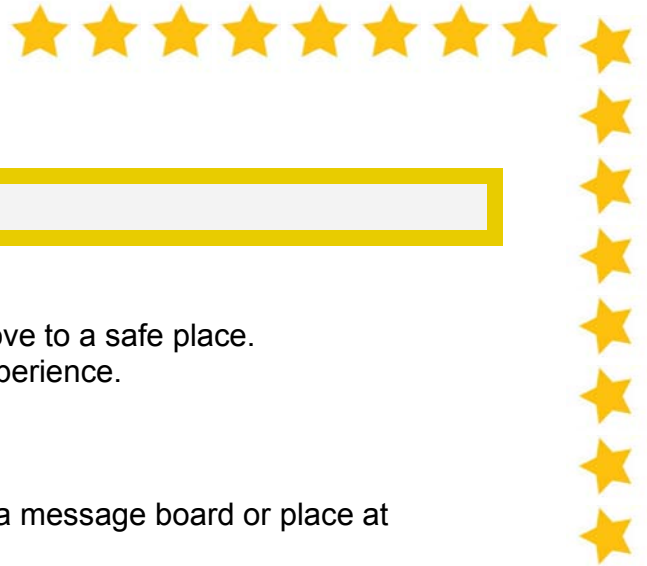


A stranger is anyone you or your children do not know! Children should be taught simple rules, reactions and responsibilities regarding interaction with strangers. As parents we are required to equip our children with life skills, particularly in our modern and ever changing world.

It is important for parents to bear in mind and to educate children regarding interaction with strangers. Do not be naïve... be proactive! Sadly, on rare occasions, strangers can be bad people, or someone who wishes to harm or someone who wishes to break a law or moral.

Who is a Stranger?

Educate children to understand that a stranger is anyone they do not know! Strangers can be of either gender and of any age. A stranger who is not kind does not have to look scary and there is no way to tell if someone is unkind or out to harm just by looking at them!



What to Do if a Stranger Approaches

Give your children a plan -

1. Do not respond. Instead, ignore and move to a safe place.
2. When safe tell a trusted adult of your experience.

Keep your children safe with these tips -

1. Know where they are at all times. Have a message board or place at home where this is recorded.
2. Tell them never to be alone; and if they must be alone review a list of safe people and places to go to for help or safety.
3. Review the importance of taking direct routes and of sticking to the plan.
4. Discuss the importance of personal space and what is and is not appropriate.
5. Tell your children never to give their name or personal details to a stranger.
6. Tell your children never to accept anything from a stranger.
7. Review with your children that some people will use stories or enticements to get them to go with them. Children must never go anywhere with a stranger.
8. Talk to your children and come up with a secret code word for emergencies.
9. Review the use of 000 with your children.
10. Devise a strategy with your children on what to do and how to behave if a stranger makes physical advances or grabs them.

This is only a basic list. As a parent be sure to review and discuss these matters on a regular basis.

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