

Great Strategies for Keeping Kids Safer

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) has partnered with Honeywell in the area of child safety. In association with Weekly Reader, we have created an important educational program your child has been participating in at school called "Got 2B Safe! Think Smart and Take Charge!"

Your child has completed kid-friendly activities in our program that introduced specific skills and provided lessons with the goal of increasing personal safety.

Reinforced throughout the materials are **Four Rules: • Check first • Go with a friend • It's my body • Tell a trusted adult.**

Children 8 to 10 are at a critical developmental milestone, becoming more aware of the world around them. The use of fantasy, play and make-believe as "coping strategies" are being replaced by more reality play and a greater maturity. "Got 2B Safe! Think Smart and Take Charge!" recognizes that children can learn the rules to follow to help protect themselves against abduction and exploitation. Of course, personal safety information needs to be reinforced time and time again as children grow, and the best place to do this is at home.

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite your family and you to visit our new web site for children, www.honeywell.com/got2bsafe. Our site has interactive games and activities for your children that are designed to reinforce the four safety rules as well as additional links for you to get important safety information. We believe you will find it a valuable resource.

As parents or guardians, you are the most important and influential people in your children's lives. This also makes you the best source for safety information. The rules and procedures your family discuss can help empower your child as he or she becomes more independent.

We urge you to visit www.missingkids.com or call **1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)** for more safety information you can use with your children. You can also find additional materials, and the activities your children used at school in NCMEC and Honeywell's education program by visiting our new web site, www.honeywell.com/got2bsafe.

We hope the important safety guidelines in this brochure assist you in helping to keep your child safer.

Sincerely,

Ernie Allen
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Tom Buckmaster
President
Honeywell Hometown Solutions

TEACH your children.

- Set boundaries about places they may go, people they may see and things they may do.
- Reinforce the importance of "taking a friend" when they go places or play outside.
- It's okay to say NO—tell your children to trust their instincts. If someone should try to grab them, tell them to make a scene; yell loudly "this person is not my father/mother/guardian" and make every effort to get away by kicking, screaming and resisting.
- Teach your children to TELL a trusted adult if anything makes them feel scared, uncomfortable or confused.
- Practice with your children what they should do if they get lost by identifying people who can help them, like a uniformed law-enforcement or security officer, store salesperson with a nametag, the person with a nametag in the information booth or help center, or a mother with children, and telling the "helping person" that they are lost. Children should never go to an isolated area with these helping adults, rather they should stay in an open and safe place until their parents or guardians can be found and brought to them.

GET INVOLVED.

- Know where your children are at all times.
- Participate in your children's activities.
- Your children should check in with you on a regular basis and if there is a change in plans.
- There is no substitute for your attention and supervision.
- PRACTICE safety skills with your children so that they become second nature.
- Review family rules and guidelines frequently.

Additionally, here are rules your children should follow at Home, in the Neighborhood, at School and on Family Outings or Trips that reflect the materials taught in the "Got 2B Safe! Think Smart and Take Charge!" program at school.

REMEMBER THE FOUR RULES

- *Check first*
- *Go with a friend*
- *It's my body*
- *Tell a trusted adult*



Home:

- Keep contact numbers and emergency numbers near the telephone. Make sure your children know how to reach you in an emergency by learning your work phone, cell phone or pager number, and when to dial your local emergency number, "911," "0" or any other appropriate number in your area.
- Teach your children never to answer the door unless the person is a trusted family friend or relative, your children feel comfortable being alone with that person **and** you have told your children that it is okay.
- Decide whether or not the telephone should be answered and what your children should say to a caller when you aren't there.
- Children should have a trusted adult to call if they are home alone and feel scared, uncomfortable, confused or have an emergency.
- Make your children part of securing your home. Show them how to lock doors and windows and set an alarm system if you have one.
- Establish reasonable rules and guidelines for using the computer by your children. Even if you don't own a computer, be sure to identify other places your children may have access such as libraries, school and friends' houses.

School:

- Walk the route with your children and point out safe places they can go if needed.
- If your children take the bus, go to the stop and review what to do when waiting for the bus. For example, if a car pulls up to the bus stop, walk away in the opposite direction to a safe location or trusted adult.
- Tell your children to always report suspicious people to a trusted adult.

Neighborhood:

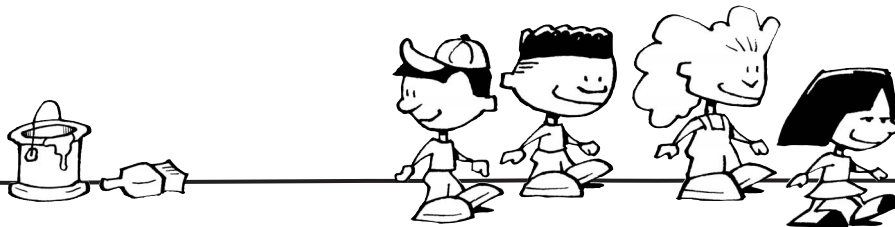
- Make sure your children know which neighbors you feel are people they can turn to for help.
- Take a walk around your neighborhood and discuss how far your children can go away from your house and the proper route to take. Don't let them take shortcuts.
- Remind your children to never go out alone but take a friend and always tell a trusted adult where they are going.
- Never drop your children off alone at a movie theater, mall or park, even if you plan to meet up later.

Family Outings, Events and Amusement Parks:

- Make sure your child knows his or her name and address, emergency telephone numbers and your names in case he or she gets lost.
- Discuss where you are going so your child is aware of the new situation before getting there.
- Discuss what to do if you get separated. Teach your child to go up to a uniformed law-enforcement or security officer, store salesperson with a nametag, person with a nametag in the information booth or help center, or a mother with children and tell that person he or she is lost. Also teach your children to stay in an open and safe place until you are found and brought there.
- Never leave your children unattended in an automobile.

We hope this information helps reinforce your commitment to teaching your children what they can do to be safer.

PLEASE VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE!
www.honeywell.com/got2bsafe



Honeywell

OJJDP Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention
Office of Justice Programs • U.S. Department of Justice

WEEKLY WR READER