

Protecting Our Children

Important Tips From The AmberWatch Foundation's "Be Safe!" Program

(NAPSA)—It's important to teach children ways to avoid potentially dangerous situations—particularly when school is out and when parents aren't always around.

According to the Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire, children and adolescents are among the most common groups to be affected by crime.

The following tips from the AmberWatch Foundation's "Be Safe!" education program could help keep kids safe. The Foundation is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to keeping kids safe through preventative education programs. The goal of the "Be Safe!" curriculum is to teach children and families how to identify and arm themselves against potentially dangerous situations, such as abduction and molestation.

1) Know what emergency numbers to call if you're home alone and you need help.

2) Never give out your name, age, address and phone number on the Internet.

3) Don't get close to any car that slows down or stops near you and never get in the car. No adult should ever need a child to help with directions or to find a lost animal. If a driver tries to get your attention, run in the opposite direction and find a trusted adult.

4) No one should ever touch you where your bathing suit covers. These are NO TOUCH Zones. If this occurs, tell a trusted adult.

5) Keep doors and windows locked when you're alone. Don't let anyone in without your parents' permission.

6) Stay with your parents or a trusted adult when you are in



Reviewing safety tips with children can help keep them safe.

public. If you lose them, go to the nearest security officer or store clerk with a nametag.

7) Never take shortcuts. Always walk along well-traveled streets and follow the route that your parents planned out for you.

8) Don't tell anyone on the phone that your parents are not at home. Just say, "They can't come to the phone right now."

Home Alone

Check local laws before leaving children home alone. Be certain you are not violating child welfare laws by leaving kids unattended. Then review "home-alone rules" with youngsters. Spot checks are recommended as well.

What Else You Can Do

Parents can subscribe to AmberWatch Mobile, an easy-to-use service with GPS capabilities designed for wireless service to keep loved ones safe from harm. The application empowers users faced with threatening situations by allowing them to reach out to loved ones in innovative ways, including an e-mail alerting system, location views and schedule checks.

For more information, visit www.amberwatchfoundation.org.