



## SCHOOL TIME CHILD SAFETY TIPS FROM MOORE PROTECTION

Most children are back in school. And for more than 8 million American children, the trip to and from school, as well as time spent at home after school, will be done alone. Children must feel safe in their own homes. But, rather than focus on the negative, scary parts, the best way to approach this topic with children is by discussing what ways they can do in certain situations; how their actions can get help in a hurry; how neighbors, security officers or police can make sure everything's safe again; and how happy you will be with their actions. Even our youngest ones should be taught the following rules:

- Have your child contact you, a designated neighbor or a relative when they get home.
- Tell your child not to enter the house if a door is open or a window is broken.
- Tell your child to never talk to or go with strangers. If someone bothers them, make sure your child knows to flee or call out for help. Make sure they don't open doors to strangers—even someone claiming to be a police officer.
- Instruct your child to tell you if any adult asks them to keep a secret, asks a lot of questions or wants to give them a gift or take their picture.
- Encourage your child to tell you if any unusual occurrence or uncomfortable situation takes place when they are away from you.
- Make sure your child knows to never give personal information to a stranger or say that they are home alone.
- Tell your child where you are and how to reach you. If your child relays messages to you, you can return the calls, giving the impression you're home.
- Teach your child how to use 911.
- Tell your children not to go into any house but their own without your permission.
- Keep doors and windows locked day and night. If windows are opened for ventilation, make sure screens are secured. If you have a security system, install screens that trip the alarm when cut or removed.

What can you do as a parent? Consider establishing a code word known only to you and your child, changing the word once it has been used. Instruct your child never to go with any adult who does not give the code word. Instruct your child's daycare center or school not to release your child to anyone but you or a designated person. Have them call you immediately if your child is absent or to verify when someone else picks up your child. Ask a neighbor to check on children periodically, and let your children know if you won't be home on time. Have your child's fingerprints, a

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current photograph, and dental and medical records in a safe, accessible place. This will help police locate your child if they are missing.

For Moore Protection's free *Guide to Family Safety and Home Security*, call Don Moore at 310-463-7631. Moore Protection, Inc. is a full service home security company that consults, designs, installs, services and monitors its own modern and robust security systems, and prides itself on fast response, quality service and personal attention.

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