

Many children walk to and from school and/or a friend's home regularly. Here is a list of safety tips to go over with your child.

1. **Stay Together** - Have your child walk with a group or at least one other friend whenever possible.
2. **Plan** - Stress the importance of sticking to a planned route, don't take shortcuts.
3. **Practice** - Practice your child's planned route and identify safety points or options for immediate shelter along the route.
4. **Be Aware** - Don't wear headphones, always be aware of your surroundings.
5. **Keep Your Distance** - Move away from any cars that pull up to the sidewalk, curb, crosswalk, or bus stop where you are standing or walking.
6. **Have a Code Word** - Establish a code word system. If a family friend or other known/unknown person tells your child they are picking your child up on your behalf, that person must know the code word. This signals to the child that the person is trustworthy. Change the code word once it has been used and do not give it out to anyone not needing to use it.
7. **Ask For Help** - If someone is following your child, have them go to a place with people, a neighbor's house or business and ask for help.
8. **Tell Someone** - Tell a trusted adult if someone is making your child feel nervous or uncomfortable, trying to talk to them, or hanging around the school playground or property
9. **Don't Talk to Strangers** - Do not answer questions, respond to prompts, or accept gifts from strangers.