



Child Advocacy Center
of Sedgwick County

RECOGNIZE | RESPOND | REPORT

Safety Tips

Talk:

- Open communication is a protective factor for children and a deterrent to perpetrators.
- Review safety practices with your children in ongoing, age-appropriate conversations.
- Teach children not to keep secrets and to tell you about anything that makes them uncomfortable.

Learn:

- Learn everything you can about the people who care for your children.
- Ask your children about their activities when with family, a babysitter, at a friend's home, or at a social function.
- Select activities for your children through organizations that screen their personnel.
- Any agency or place where children are involved should require background checks and have strict policies against one-on-one or isolated, child-adult interactions.

Act:

- If a child tells you about abuse, listen. Reassure the child it's not his/her fault and report the abuse to authorities.
- Keep computers in a public area and supervise what your children are posting online.
- Teach children to avoid online communication with unknown people.
- Talk to children from an early age about body safety and use anatomically correct language for their private areas.

Practice:

- Practice "What If" situations with your children.
- Explore safety issues with your children and help them identify appropriate responses to unsafe scenarios.
- Designate a code word for last minute change of plans or emergencies: if an unexpected person contacts your child on your behalf, that person will know the code word when the child asks for it. If the adult does not have the code word, the child tells their teacher or contacts you immediately.