

SAFE KIDS SUMMER EVENT

Tips to Keep Children Safe

- Teach the Touching Rule: "No one should touch your private parts except to keep you clean and healthy."
- Teach children that they have the right to say 'No' if someone breaks the Touching Rule, or makes them feel uncomfortable. Then go and tell a trusted adult.
- Create a family rule: Your children need to know that you want them to tell you if someone tries to inappropriately touch them.
- Be aware of your child's environment. How well do you know the people who spend time with your child.
- Know how to identify a possible predator: 1) an adult more interested in relationships with children than adults. 2) a relative or friend who singles out one child for attention, gifts or spending time.
- Teach children which adults can help if a child is in danger.
- **Talk about kidnap prevention with your children.** Offenders use lures, tricks or physical force to abduct children. Older children and teens are more vulnerable to stranger abduction than young children.
- Teach the buddy system. Children should learn when it is safer to be with a friend or trusted adult than it is to be alone.
- Teach children to check with the adult in charge before changing plans or going anywhere - even if they're going with a familiar adult.
- Children should know how to use the telephone and dial 911.
- Role-play with children.
- Use the "what if" game to help children think of how they would respond to situations such as: "What if the school bus doesn't arrive on time?" "What if a stranger asks you to help him find his lost puppy?"
- Describe real-life situations such as confronting a stranger while walking to school or getting separated from family or friends in crowds.
- Have children practice reactions to threatening situations. For instance, in the case of a potential abduction, children should learn to yell, "I need help! This person is trying to harm me!"
- Show children how to stay at least an arm's length away from strangers who approach them.

How to find Information about Sex Offenders in your neighborhood

You may request sex offender information through the Sex Offender Registry Board directly at www.RegisteredOffendersList.Org. Level 3 offenders are posted on www.Mass.gov in Massachusetts and on www.CT.gov in Connecticut.