



WHO[®]
We Help Ourselves

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STRANGER DANGER

SAFETY TIPS

- 1) Teach your children that they should never go with anyone that they do not know. They should always get **direct permission** from a parent or guardian. In WHO[®] presentations we tell children, "If you don't know, don't go."
- 2) Know the route that your child walks. If your child walks home from school, every parent should be familiar with the neighborhood. Teach your child where they can go for help along their route.
- 3) Children and teenagers should learn how to walk against traffic. They will be better able to see if a car slows down or if someone is getting out of the car if they are facing on-coming vehicles.
- 4) Encourage the "buddy" system. Children need to learn the safety rules and to count on peer support for assertive behavior.
- 5) Some communities have "safe houses" where children can go for help. Please instruct your child **not to go in these houses**, but to ask for assistance at the door.
- 6) Do not mark your child's clothing with their names on the outside. If he/she is walking home, a stranger will be able to call out their name. This may confuse your child and lead them to think that is a person they know. Decals on your car displaying your child's name could also be included in this safety tip.
- 7) Do not focus solely on "stranger danger" rules for self-protection. It only distorts perception and confuses the child. With the WHO[®] Program we teach children that physical characteristics, gender or familiarity are not criteria for judging potentially threatening or non-threatening situations. *In fact, 80% of all victimization of children is committed by someone the child knows.* Teach your children to recognize the behavior "which doesn't make sense" as a signal to do something.



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