



# Safety Tips for Kids Dealing with Strangers



Baltimore County Public Schools

Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools

- Always **TAKE A FRIEND** with you when walking or riding your bike to and from school. It's safer and more fun to be with your friends. Walk and ride in well-lit areas, and never take shortcuts. When walking and biking, stay aware of your surroundings.
- Stay with a group while waiting at the bus stop. If anyone bothers you while going to or from school, get away from that person, and **TELL** a trusted adult like your parents, guardians, or teacher. If an adult approaches you for help, remember grownups needing help should not ask children, they should ask other adults.
- If someone you don't know or feel comfortable with offers you a ride, **SAY NO**. Never hitchhike, and only accept a ride from someone if your parents or guardians told you it is okay.
- If someone follows you on foot, get away from him or her as quickly as you can. If someone follows you in a car, turn around and go in the other direction. Immediately go to a safe place and **TELL** an adult what happened. Call 911 if you have a cell phone.
- If someone tries to take you somewhere, quickly get away and **YELL** for help.
- Leave items and clothing with your name on them at home. If someone you don't know calls out your name, don't be fooled or confused.
- If you want to change your plans after school, always **CHECK FIRST** with your parents or guardians. Never play in parks, malls, or video arcades by yourself. Make sure that you always play with other children, have your parents' or guardians' permission to play in specific areas, and always let them know where you are going to be. Never accept money or gifts from anyone until you **CHECK FIRST** with you parents or guardians.
- Trust your feelings. If someone makes you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused, get away as quickly as you can and **TELL** a trusted adult what happened.