



HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF BUNKIE

Human Trafficking & Abduction Safety Guide

Simple Habits That Help Keep Children Safe

Talking to Your Children

- Explain what makes a person a stranger — even a familiar face can be a stranger if your child doesn't know them well.
- If your child is scared of someone, teach them to run to safety.
- Teach your child to run and scream if someone tries to force them to go somewhere, including into a car.
- Make sure your child knows their full name, address, and phone numbers.
- Agree on a secret family code word — your child should never go with anyone, no matter the reason, unless that person knows the word. Keep a "Call List" of emergency contacts your child knows how to use.
- Teach your child that adults shouldn't ask kids for help (like directions or finding a lost pet). If approached this way, your child should say "Wait here and I'll check with my mom or dad" and find you right away.
- Always ask permission before going anywhere with anyone, and never accept an unplanned ride from someone known or unknown.
- Always tell a parent where you're going, how you'll get there, who's going with you, and when you'll be back.
- Avoid shortcuts and walking between parked vehicles.

Building Trust Every Day

- Never leave children unattended in a vehicle, running or not, and don't let them wait alone at the bus stop.
- Always know how to find or contact your children.
- Take an active role in your children's activities.
- Listen closely when your children describe a bad dream or something that unsettled them — trust your instincts.
- Talk with your children about concerning news stories and ask for their perspective.
- Pay attention to any adult who takes an unusual interest in your children.
- Let your children know it's okay to be rude to an adult if they feel threatened — this message often needs to come directly from you.
- Teach the difference between an "okay" secret and a "not okay" secret, and reassure your child they should never feel they have to keep a "not okay" secret from you.
- Practice a loud, attention-getting scream together — they may need it someday.
- Check your neighborhood's registered-offender information and talk with your children about why those individuals should be avoided.
- Keep the family computer in a central, easily monitored location, and avoid unsupervised internet access in bedrooms.
- Review and reinforce these habits regularly, in a way that keeps kids alert without frightening them.



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The Goal

The goal is to make children smart and keep them safe — not scared.