Information about the differences between stranger’s kids should look out for and stranger’s kids can trust. Kids see strangers every day in stores, in the park, and in their neighbourhoods. Most of these strangers are nice, normal people, but a few may not be. Parents can protect their children from dangerous strangers by teaching them about strangers and suspicious behaviour, and by taking a few precautions of their own.

Who is a stranger?
A stranger is anyone that your family doesn’t know well. It’s common for children to think that “bad strangers” look scary, like the villains in cartoons and it can be dangerous for children to think this way. Pretty strangers can be just as dangerous as the not-so-pretty ones. When you talk to your children about strangers, explain that no one can tell if strangers are nice or not nice just by looking at them and that they should be careful around all strangers.

But don’t make it seem like all strangers are bad. If children need help—whether they’re lost, being threatened by a bully, or being followed by a stranger - the safest thing for them to do in many cases is to ask a stranger for help. You can make this easier for them by showing them which strangers are okay to trust.

Who are safe strangers?
Safe strangers are people children can ask for help when they need it. Police Officers and Firefighters are two examples of very recognisable safe strangers. Teachers, Principals, and Librarians are adults children can trust too, and they are easy to recognise when they’re at work. But make sure that you emphasise that whenever possible, children should go to a public place to ask for help.

You can help your children recognise safe strangers by pointing them out when you’re out with them. Also show your children places they can go if they need help, such as
Recognising and Handling Dangerous Situations
Perhaps the most important way parents can protect their children is to teach them to be wary of potentially dangerous situations – this will help them when dealing with strangers as well as with known adults who may not have good intentions. Help children recognise the warning signs of suspicious behaviour, such as when an adult asks them to disobey their parents or do something without permission, asks them to keep a secret, asks children for help, or makes them feel uncomfortable in any way.

Also tell your children that an adult should never ask a child for help, and if one does ask for their help, teach them to find a trusted adult right away to tell what happened.

You should also talk to your children about how they should handle dangerous situations. One way is to teach them “No, Go, Yell, Tell.” If in a dangerous situation, kids should say no, run away, yell as loud as they can, and tell a trusted adult what happened right away. Make sure that your children know that it is okay to say no to an adult in a dangerous situation and to yell to keep themselves safe, even if they are indoors. It’s good to practise this in different situations so that your children will feel confident in knowing what to do.

Here are a few possible scenarios:
- A nice-looking stranger approaches your child in the park and asks for help finding the stranger’s lost dog.
- A woman who lives in your neighbourhood but that the child has never spoken to invites your child into her house for a snack.
- A stranger asks if your child wants a ride home from school.
- Your child thinks he or she is being followed.
- An adult your child knows says or does something that makes him or her feel bad or uncomfortable.
- While your child is walking home from a friend’s house, a car pulls over and a stranger asks for directions.

What Else Parents Can Do
In addition to teaching children how to recognise and handle dangerous situations and strangers, there are a few more things parents can do to help their children stay safe and avoid dangerous situations.

- Know where your children are at all times.
- Make it a rule that your children must ask permission or check in with you before going anywhere. Give your children your work and cell phone numbers so they can reach you at all times.
- Point out safe places.
- Show your children safe places to play, safe roads and paths to take, and safe places to go if there’s trouble.
- Teach children to trust their instincts.
- Explain that if they ever feel scared or uncomfortable, they should get away as fast as they can and tell an adult.
- Tell them that sometimes adults they know may make them feel uncomfortable, and they should still get away as fast as possible and tell another adult what happened.
- Reassure children that you will help them when they need it.
- Teach your children to be assertive.

- Make sure they know that it’s okay to say no to an adult and to run away from adults in dangerous situations.
- Encourage your children to play with others.
- There’s safety in numbers!
- Finally, keep ‘danger’ in balance.

While being alert and pro-active with protective behaviours, remember that a child’s world is full of safe, wonderful and positive events.

Reference: www.ncpc.org

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<th>4A</th>
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Congratulations to the following classes for having the best attendance in their level for the week ending Friday 14th June: 6B, 5B, 4B, 2B, 1A and Prep B. Special congratulations goes to Grade 5B which had 100% and also Grade 1a (98.8%), 6B (98.75%) and Grade 6A (98.68%) attendance for week nine of Term Two. The weather may have been cold and wet but student attendance has been great. Well done to everyone!!!

Brian Wright (Welfare officer).

Advertising