

KIDS AND COMPANY®

Parent Notes

Dear First Grade Parent/Guardian,

Our class will soon begin a personal safety program called **KIDS AND COMPANY: Together for Safety®**. Through specially designed activities, games, songs, and skill rehearsals, your child will be learning how to protect himself/herself from abduction and sexual exploitation. This program was selected by our school because it empowers children with the information, skills, and support they need to keep safe, without frightening them. The curriculum has received the support of leading national educational organizations.

This letter provides information and concepts to use at home with your child to reinforce the safety messages learned at school. Below is a list of the safety concepts being taught in Grade 1:

911 AND OPERATOR CALLS - for obtaining emergency help. Your child learns to provide name, street address, town/city and to describe the problem.

BUDDY SYSTEM - it is safer to be with other people when out in public or walking to and from places. A child alone is more likely to get hurt, lost, or frightened.

SWELL AND TELL SECRETS - children do not always have to keep secrets. Children can ask a trusted adult for assistance and need not feel alone. The private parts of the body are reviewed as those covered by a bathing suit. Children must be able to recognize the private parts of their body so that they will know when someone is touching them in an inappropriate or harmful way. Research indicates that children with the correct vocabulary for the private parts of their body may find it easier to report incidents of inappropriate touching. Teach you child the anatomically correct terms for their private body parts.

CHECK FIRST - is a habit that reinforces checking with parents before going anywhere, changing plans, or accepting a gift. This rule applies to people they know, as well as people they don't know.

NO, GO and TELL - is used to protect children from inappropriate touching or other inappropriate requests made to a child. Children are encouraged to say "no," then "go" to a safe place, and "tell" an adult.

TRUSTED ADULTS - children who feel comfortable talking to trusted adults are more likely to have success in productively resolving their concerns and problems. The idea that your child is not alone and you and other adults who care about them are available to assist when needed is a concept that begins early and is reinforced throughout his/her life.

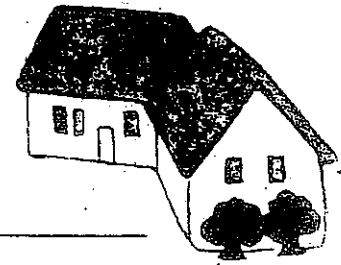
STORE SAFETY - strategies include staying in the store when they become separated from parents/guardians; calling loudly for parents by name; accessing help from a store employee; making a noisy scene to alert other adults that they need assistance.

Many of the lessons include Activity Sheets which you can review and sign. Take the time to discuss these with your child.

The **KIDS AND COMPANY®** booklet for parents, "Partners in Protection", is available at school as a resource for you. Additional safety resources are also available from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. To order free pamphlets call 1-800-843-5678 or visit the National Center's website at www.missingkids.com. (Use this same number or the website to report a missing child, concerns about child pornography on the Internet, or to report a tip or lead regarding a missing child.)

Parents across the country have participated in **KIDS AND COMPANY: Together for Safety®** with their children and have enjoyed the opportunity to learn how to talk to their child about these crucial topics. Please accept this opportunity to work with your child. There is no one more effective in teaching and reinforcing your child's safety than you!

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

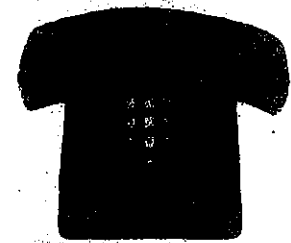


My Street address is

My town is

My state is

My phone number is



____ + ____ + ____ + _____

Teacher: _____ Parent's Signature: _____