

Dear Second 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 2:

EMERGENCY HELP - the children make an emergency calling card. Discuss 911 and other "helping" adults in your community and neighborhood and how they can be contacted.

TRUSTED HELPERS - are people you and your children have identified as people who could help them when they are facing a difficult situation. In a child's early life, these are often family members. As children go to school and become involved in community activities, the number of adults to whom they can confidently turn for assistance grows.

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.

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.

TOUCHES AND SECRETS - concepts include: no one has the right to touch another's private body parts; assertive language and behavior responses to unwanted or inappropriate touch; "touching" secrets need to be told to a trusted adult. Children may not confide in adults because they may not want to "tattle" or because they are afraid their parents will be angry or not believe them. Let your child know that you will listen to him or her and that it is not their fault if someone touches them inappropriately.

ASSERTIVENESS AND BULLIES - children of this age may face a real threat of having to deal with a bully. Children need to use their brains, trust their feelings, train their bodies to project an assertive image, and to ask for help when they need it.

UNFAMILIAR NEIGHBORHOODS - children can select low-risk helpers such as mothers with children, or houses which indicate children reside there (bike, toys in the yard). If your child is uncomfortable around a person or does not feel safe in a location, encourage your child to talk with you about their concerns. Reassure your child that you take their concerns seriously.

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!



OVER

HOMework-SAFETY UNIT

Grade: 2

Classroom Teacher: _____

Teacher: Mrs. Turpin-Orgetas Subject: Physical Education

1. Explain "Family Code Word" and have one with your family.
 2. Discuss an escape route out of your house and a meeting point with your family.
 3. Decide on a "Safe House" in your community.
 4. Know how to call 911, make a collect call and use a cell phone.
 5. Fill in the emergency card with the help of your parents/guardians
- The completed card can be posted by your phone at home so your family can use it in case of an emergency.

MY EMERGENCY CALLING CARD

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Town: _____

State: _____ Zip code: _____

Home phone number: _____

Mom's work and/or cell number: _____

Dad's work and/or cell number: _____

Adult friends names/numbers (neighbors, friends, relatives)

Fire: _____ Doctor: _____

Posion: _____ Hospital: _____

***CALL 911 or 0 to get help in an Emergency

