

Dear Kindergarten 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 Kindergarten:

NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER - children need to be able to provide this basic information in case of an emergency or if they are lost.

BUDDY SYSTEM - reminds children to stick together when they are out in their neighborhood and in public places. A child alone is more likely to get hurt, lost, or frightened.

CHECK FIRST - before changing plans, going anywhere, or accepting anything from anyone. —

The **CHECK FIRST** rule applies to all situations involving people they know as well as people they don't know. Avoid the use of "stranger danger" language as it is more likely that children will be abducted or exploited by someone they know, or someone who looks or acts "friendly" or "normal."

NO-GO-TELL - The children learn to say "no" to someone who makes them feel uncomfortable or who tries to touch their private parts or who asks them to touch theirs. Let your child know that you will listen if he/she ever needs to tell you about a touching incident. Children learn about the private parts of their body, those covered by a bathing suit. Children armed with proper terminology about the private parts of their body may be able to more easily share if there is an incidence of sexual exploitation, and parents are encouraged to teach their child the anatomically correct terms for their body.

TRUSTED ADULTS - the children learn that there are people to whom they can talk if they have a concern and who are ready to help, "low risk helpers" can help if children are lost or in trouble.

ASSERTIVE BEHAVIORS - are taught as the children practice the safety rules. Assertive behaviors include looking right at the person; using a loud, confident voice; sitting or standing straight and tall; using "I mean business" facial expressions; stating clear, decisive messages such as "no," "stop it," etc.; leaving the situation whenever possible and going to an adult and stating the problem.

911 EMERGENCY HELP - the children learn how to dial 911 on a touch tone phone in case of an emergency. Teach your children how to use rotary dial and pay phones as well.

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.)

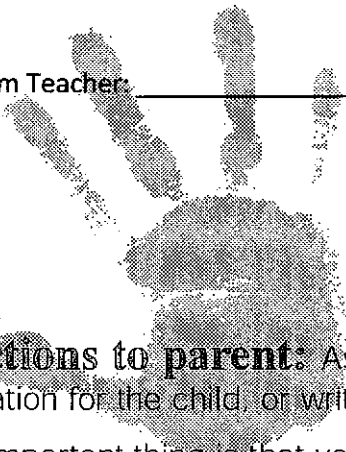
Parents across the country have participated in **KIDS AND COMPANY: Together for Safety®** with their children and have enjoyed the opportunity to learn how to talk to their child about these crucial topics. Please accept this opportunity to work with your child. There is no one more effective in teaching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



LESSON 2

ACTIVITY SHEET

Classroom Teacher: _____



Directions to parent: Ask your child to give you the information below. Write in the information for the child, or write the information in broken lines for your child to trace.

The important thing is that your child knows the information. The writing activity simply helps to practice and reinforce the information.

My first name is:

My last name is:

My parent(s)' name(s) is(are):

My phone number is:

The name of my street is:

The name of my town is:

The name of my state is:

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

