

# *Ways to prevent child abduction*

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## *Young children should*

- never say they are alone if they answer the phone—they can offer to take a message or say their parents will phone back
- never answer the door if they are alone
- not invite anyone into the house without the permission of a parent or babysitter
- not go into people's houses without letting anyone know where they are
- never get into anyone's car without permission
- not take candy or other gifts from strangers or anyone else without asking the parent first
- never play in deserted buildings or isolated areas
- scream and scatter books and belongings if they are forced toward a building or car
- move away from a car that pulls up beside them if they do not know the driver
- be taught their full telephone number and address
- be taught that it is all right to say "no" to an adult if the person wants them to do something that you have taught them is wrong
- know that no one has the right to touch any part of their bodies that a bathing suit would cover
- tell you, school authorities or a police officer about anyone who exposes private parts
- tell you if someone has asked them to keep a secret from you
- go to the nearest cashier if lost or separated from you in a store or mall

Source...Child Find Ontario

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Children's Aid Society  
LONDON & MIDDLESEX  
La Société d'aide à l'enfance

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## *Teens should*

- tell you where they are at all times or leave a written or recorded message at home
- never hitchhike
- avoid shortcuts through empty parks, fields, laneways or alleys
- run home or go to the nearest public place and yell for help if they are being followed
- learn to recognize suspicious behaviour and remember a description of the person or vehicle to give you or the police. Write the plate number in the dirt or snow if nothing else is available
- if attacked for money, jewelry or clothing give it up rather than risk injury
- feel that they can talk to you and call you to pick them up at any time and at any place

## *Parents should*

- avoid clothing and toys with the child's name on it. A child is less likely to fear someone that knows his/her name
- check all potential babysitters and older friends of your child
- never leave a child alone in a public place, stroller or car...not even for a minute
- always accompany young children to the bathroom in a public place and advise them never to play in or around the area
- always accompany your child on door-to-door activities, ie. Halloween, school fundraising campaigns, etc.
- point out safe houses or homes with Block Parent signs where children can go if they are in trouble
- keep an up to date colour photograph of your child, a medical and dental history, and have your child fingerprinted

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