



Back to School Safety Tips

- 1. Know which adults have access to and contact with your child.**
Also, it is very important to get to know your child's friends and their parents/guardians, as well as where they live.
- 2. Determine the policy for releasing students both after school and at other times.**
Does the school require visitors to register in the front office, and have you provided a list of people who may remove your child from school?
- 3. Determine the policy concerning notification in case of emergency.**
What is the school's policy for notification if a child is absent and the parent/guardian doesn't advise the school?
- 4. Discuss with your child what he/she should do if anyone follows, approaches or in any way bothers him/her. Include instructions to get away quickly and to tell a trusted adult.** Teach your child if anyone tries to take him/her away, he/she should yell loudly and make every effort to get away by kicking, screaming, and resisting.
- 5. Find opportunities or "teachable moments" to practice safety skills with your child.**
Create "what if" scenarios for your child to make sure he/she understands safety messages and how to use them in real situations.
- 6. If your child goes home alone, make sure the rules for safety at home are clearly understood.** Prepare an emergency contact list (kept close to the telephone) that includes phone numbers for you, law enforcement, the fire department, poison control center and at least one other trusted adult.
- 7. Talk about bus safety.**
Board the bus only after it has come to a complete stop and the driver has instructed him/her to get on.
- 8. Be sure your child knows his and your contact information.**
They should have his full name and address, your full name and the best number to reach you at memorized.
- 9. Pay attention to your child's use of technology and internet access.**
Supervise your children on the internet (including what apps they may use on their phone) just as you would monitor what movies they may watch or places they go with their friends. Learn how to protect your child online.
- 10. Pay attention.**
Pay attention to changes in your child's eating habits, sleeping habits and personality. If you notice your child seems withdrawn or isn't sleeping well, inquire as to why. A change in behavior may signal something is wrong.

