

Child abduction

The reality of missing and abducted children

Every day in the United States, more than 2,000 children are reported missing. We hear so much in the news about children being taken because people are becoming more aware of missing children because the media is covering more stories.

In most child kidnapping cases, the person is someone the parents and child know and trust. We should not live in fear and anxiety about this possibility, but rather take an active approach to teach ourselves and our children to be safety-minded.



What parents can do

- ♥ Never leave young children unattended. Make sure you know where your children are at all times.
- ♥ Lock the windows and doors of your car and home.
- ♥ Practice basic safety skills: teach children to use cell phones; how to locate an adult who can help if they need it; what suspicious requests from adults are and what to do in that situation. Play the "What if" game.
- ♥ Teach them to say "NO" to any unwelcome, uncomfortable, or confusing touch or actions from others.
- ♥ Keep up-to-date records of things like pictures, fingerprints, footprints, medical and dental records and birth certificates in a safe, easily reachable place.
- ♥ Know your child's friends and get to know their parents. Keep updated lists of their names and phone numbers.
- ♥ Don't have your child's name printed on their clothing or backpacks because it is an easy way for a predator to establish trust by "knowing" and using the child's name.
- ♥ Carefully interview the babysitters and caregivers you hire and keep an eye on their interactions with your children.
- ♥ Build your child's self-esteem. Children with low self-esteem are at greater risk.
- ♥ Listen to your children. Encourage them not to keep secrets from you.
- ♥ Set reasonable rules for computer use. Place the computer in the living room instead of a child's bedroom. Learn who your child's online friends are.