

## SAFETY TIPS

*Courtesy of Child Safe Canada*

For years parents have been telling their children not to talk to strangers, but child safety experts believe it's not about not talking to strangers, but *how*, and teaching children to know who they can go to in an emergency.

### **Here are some tips on street-proofing your kids:**

**Talking To Strangers:** Don't teach your child to fear strangers, but strangeness. If a youngster can't talk to strangers, who will they go to in an emergency?

**Trust Your Instincts:** If someone doesn't make you feel safe, it's OK to run away and tell an adult you trust.

**Vehicles:** Never approach vehicles. In fact, if ever approached by a vehicle, RUN in the opposite direction that the vehicle is traveling and tell an adult.

**Names:** No visible names on outerwear or backpacks.

**It's OK To Yell:** If someone grabs your child, they should hit, kick, and yell as loudly as possible.

**Password:** Use a password that is easy for your children to remember, so that if you must send a friend or family member to pick them up, they will know it's safe because that person has the password.

**Emergency Numbers:** Remind children that in an emergency, they can dial 911 or 0 from a phone booth, without any money.

**Safety In Numbers:** Children should always travel in groups of 2 or more. Always take the same route and check in when you arrive home, if necessary.

**Teach More Than Once:** Start young, teach them again and again - and practice dangerous situations, modifying and adjusting to fit their growing understanding.

**Adults Don't Ask Children For Help:** So if someone does, it's a sign of danger. Run, and tell an adult you trust.

**People With Bad Intentions Don't Always Look Like Bad People:** Dangerous people can look friendly. You know they aren't good people if you feel badly when you're with them. Again, trust your instincts.

**Secrets:** If someone tells you to keep a secret from your mom or your dad, don't do it! Tell your parents right away. That's a big sign of danger.

**Ask First:** Don't go anywhere, with anyone, without your parent's permission.

**Lost In A Store:** If you get lost in a store you can ask for help from a person in uniform who works for the store, or you can go to the till, or find a woman - especially a woman with a child - and ask for help). Don't ever leave the store with anyone, even with the woman or someone else in a uniform.