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## Safety Tips For Kids

*Children can begin to learn how to protect themselves as soon as they are able to articulate a sentence. Teach them the following safety measures to help them guard against exploitation and abduction.*

- Teach your child his or her full name, birth date, street address, city, telephone number and your full name(s).
- When you go to a public place, point out to your child what you are wearing (ex. red plaid shirt, black pants, etc.) and note what your child is wearing. Teach him or her to go to a cashier or sales clerk or someone wearing a name tag if you become separated. Ask that person for help, don't wander around looking for each other.
- Tell your child to always check with you before going to a neighbor's house or before going anywhere with anyone.
- Use the buddy system – there's safety in numbers.
- Teach your child to stay away from anyone following in a car or on foot. Don't go near the car and don't answer questions or agree to assist in any way. Adults should ask other adults, not children, for directions or assistance.
- Talk to your child about secrets; no adult should ask a child to keep a secret that makes him or her feel uncomfortable. Discuss the difference between fun secrets (birthday gifts, etc.) and "other" secrets.
- Teach your child that no one should touch him or her in the areas covered by a bathing suit, nor should he or she touch anyone in those areas.
- If your child is in a situation where he or she feels endangered, or there is an emergency, be sure he or she knows how to call 9-1-1. It is a free call from any pay phone.

For more information, contact the Edina Police Department, 952-826-1610.

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### EDINA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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