

Danger Awareness

Use a Code Word

Parents and children should develop a "code word" that is known only to them, and children should not go with anyone they do not know who cannot provide them with this code word. It should be something unique, but easy for the child to remember, and the code word should be changed from time to time.

Address and Phone Number

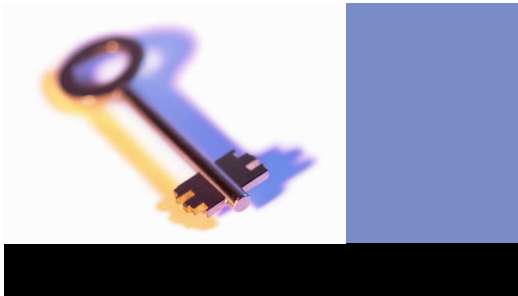
Make sure your child can recite their full address and phone number, including area code. Learning their home number, as well as the parent's cell phone and/or work numbers is also important.

Situational Awareness

Children should be taught to be aware of his/her surroundings. They should be taught to stay together with friends, and never to go off alone with a person they do not know. Children should avoid alleys or the backs of buildings, or anywhere they cannot be easily seen by others.

Emergency Situations

Children should be taught the 9-1-1 ABC's: (A) Pick up the phone and dial 9-1-1; (B) Tell the person who answers where you are and what is wrong; (C) Stay on the phone until the 9-1-1 operators tells you to hang up.



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Exposing Commonly Used Predator Lures



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Pinpointing Predator Tactics

The statistics are alarming:

- 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be molested before their 18th birthday.
- The typical sexual predator will assault 117 times before being caught.
- The re-arrest rate for convicted child molesters is 52%
- A child is reported missing every 40 seconds, and 1 in 4 of these are abducted and molested.

Predators are people whose primary mission in life is to harm children in some way. The harm could take the form of molestation, abduction, or abuse.

A predator can be anyone, even someone your child may know. Remember, the overwhelming majority of children are victimized by someone they know.

It is important to teach your children to be "danger aware" and to know the common tactics used by predators and pedophiles to lure children so they may be victimized.

SOURCE: Dept of Justice, Nat'l Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Lost Pet Lure

Frequently a pedophile or child molester will approach a young child (or a group of young children) and pretend that he has lost his pet. He will ask the child (or children) to search the area, usually a secluded or wooded area, to find the pet.

Prior to starting this "Lure", the predator will have hidden the pet somewhere in the woods where it is not easily visible and then the predator will guide a selected child in that direction during the search.

Once the pet has been found, the predator will ask the child to help him take the dog back to the car, perhaps promising money or some other reward for helping locate the missing pet. Once the child and the predator reach the car abduction can occur.

Asking for Directions

Predators will often ask a child for directions, pretending to be either lost or new to the area and not familiar with surroundings. Often a map or paper with an address written on it is used to make this more credible. The predator will attempt to isolate the child or coax the child into going with him to assure he can find his

destination. If the child is isolated or enters the predator's car, abduction can occur.

Offering Candy or Toys

Child molesters often frequent areas where children play and will use candy, electronic games, remote control toys or similar toys to gain the child's trust. He will often allow the child to play with the toy, then tell him (or her) he has a similar toy in his car and if they retrieve it they can play together. Once the child is lured to the vehicle, abduction can occur.

Posing as Authority Figure

Predators will often pose as a policeman, doctor, fireman or other authority figure. Having heard a child's name, he will approach the child and use a fake ID to identify himself. Often he will tell the child his mother or father have been hurt and are in the hospital and he is there to transport the child to their parents. Once the child is in the predator's vehicle, abduction can occur.

Threat or Intimidation

Predators will often place illegal drugs, pornographic material, alcohol or other questionable material near children so it can be found. They will then use the threat of turning them into authorities unless they comply with the predator's demands.

Helping children understand the common lures predators use exposes these tactics to the light of understanding. An important key to not becoming a victim is for children to become more "danger aware".

