

## NOVA SCOTIA'S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

## Staying Safe Practical Tips for Personal and Home Safety



Find someone you can trust and talk to them. If you find it difficult to talk, write it down and give it to them.

## Street Smarts for Kids

When you stay alert, it can help to keep you safe. Talk to your parents or your teacher about what is safe and what is normal, as well as what will help keep you safe.

Sometimes it might be difficult to tell what's normal. An adult might be very nice to you, they might ask for help in finding a lost pet, or offer you some candy. If you don't know the person, run away.

Trust your own feelings. If something doesn't seem right to you, there is a good chance it isn't normal and it isn't safe. If something seems out of the ordinary to you or you think you're in danger, you should find an adult you trust and tell them right away.

Your parents, Block Parents, teachers, fire departments and the police are just some of the adults in your community who can help you. You should always know where these adults can be found in your neighbourhood.

Remember you can always talk to an operator by dialing zero or in an emergency you can dial 911. This is free from any pay phone.

Always tell someone where you are going and when you are going to be home. Ask your parents' permission before you leave the yard.

Know your address and phone number. It's a good idea to know the phone number of someone else you can call if your parents aren't home.

Use well-traveled streets and always take the same route to and from school. Avoid secluded areas, back alleys, and vacant lots--especially at night.

Never get into a car with strangers--even if they claim to know you or your parents. If someone in a car approaches you, don't go near them. Go in the opposite direction and find an adult you can trust--like the police, a Block Parent or your teacher.

Never let anyone touch you or lead you to another area. If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, leave the situation immediately and find a trusted adult.

If you are being forced physically--scream as loud as you can that this person is not your mother or father and that you don't want to go with them.

Knowledge is the key to staying safe. You know what feels right so don't be afraid to trust your instincts.

Talk to your parents and your teacher about other things you can do to stay safe!