



# Child Safety

*“Strangers pose the biggest safety risk to my child”*. This statement may be the most common myth surrounding child safety. In many cases, victims and parents know the perpetrator who is often a family member or a trusted friend and responsible for your child’s safety.

While diligence is needed at home, children also need protection when they are out. Unfortunately, they are confused with the complex concept of strangers, which makes “Stranger Dangers” difficult to grasp. A better approach is to teach children about good “friends” who help during emergencies.

**Some friends are: Teachers, Police Officers, Firefighters and Doctors.**

## **Safety Tips:**

- Children should know their full name and home phone number.
- Teach children that adults shouldn’t approach kids for help or directions and to immediately tell a “friend”.
- Don’t drop off children at malls, movie theaters or parks for unsupervised time.
- Never leave children unattended in automobiles.
- Tell children it’s OK to say “NO” to strangers.

## **Safety at Home:**

- Post rules where children can see them.
- Choose baby-sitters with care. Contact references and listen why children do not like the baby-sitter.
- Teach children to lock doors and do not open or talk with anyone at the door.
- Store poisonous & hazardous materials out of children’s reach.
- Set water heater temperature to below 120 degrees.
- Keep pot and pan handles turned toward back of stove.
- Keep knives and other sharp objects away from children.

## **Safety in the Neighborhood:**

- Pick neighborhood boundaries using significant landmarks.
- Regularly check to make sure your child remains within these boundaries.
- Reinforce the “buddy system”.
- Tell children which neighbors they may visit.
- Be aware of unfamiliar vehicles in the area.
- Interact regularly with your neighbors.

## **If Your Child is Missing:**

***At Home:*** Check closets, laundry, in & under beds, inside appliances and vehicles. Look outside and anywhere a child may hide. **Contact Franklin – Bingham Farms Police Department immediately if your child is still missing.**

***In a Store:*** Notify the store manager or security office.

## **Important information that you will need when you contact the Police Department:**

- Child's name.
- Date of Birth
- Height & Weight
- Unique identifiers (marks, scars, glasses, braces etc.)
- Clothing description
- Time & place your child was last seen