

Keeping youth safe: Suggestions for parents

- Remind your son/daughter to be aware of his/her surroundings and to walk with a purpose and stay alert.
- Know your son/daughter's whereabouts and who they are with.
- Keep an up-to-date list of names, phone numbers and addresses of your son's/daughter's friends.
- Talk with your son/daughter about the safest route to school - consider lighting, safe havens (friend's houses, businesses, pay phones) that may be along the route.
- Remind your son/daughter to take the same route to/from school each day.
- Advise your son/daughter to cross the street, walk in the opposite direction and go to the nearest safe haven if he/she suspects being followed.
- Remind your son/daughter to stay a safe distance away from anyone who stops to talk to them. He/she should not be close enough to be grabbed, pushed or pulled into a vehicle.
- Ensure your son/daughter knows that he/she does not need a quarter to dial 911 from a pay phone.
- Advise your son/daughter to use caution in conversations with strangers - avoid providing personal information. It is not rude to refuse conversation.
- Encourage your son/daughter to plan to arrive at a bus stop just before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- If your son/daughter is going to a friend's house, make it a rule to verify with the friend's parents that your son/daughter is visiting and will be supervised.
- Keep up-to-date information about your son/daughter - a recent colour photograph, height, weight and medical history.
- Review key points of suspect/vehicle identification with your son/daughter: a person's physical description (height, weight, clothing, hair colour, scars, tattoos, jewellery) or vehicle description (make, model, colour, dents, etc.).
- Remind your son/daughter to immediately call police and notify their school administrator of any suspicious incidents.

