

Safety Around Strangers

7-8-9 Year Olds

Day 2 of 3

Objectives

To review Rules 1 and 2:

- Stay an arm's reach away.
- Don't talk to strangers.

To teach Rules 3 and 4:

- Don't take anything from strangers.
- Don't go anywhere with someone you don't know.

To continue to allay concerns and put forth the idea that strangers are not bad, they are just people you don't know.

To role-play the rules so children have an opportunity to demonstrate and master techniques.

Introduction for adult

Remember, role-playing is acting out so children learn the skill, not just the concept.

Introduction for children

Today we are going to learn two new rules.

Watch video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2uLOCITu6k&list=PLSrCYUKewj4fovjoOgyXkWnJ9mFR4Tcfo&index=12>

Role-play

Do you remember Rule #3?

The third rule is: you don't take anything from someone you don't know, not even something that belongs to you or to your family.

RP: What if a UPS delivery person comes and wants to give you a package? Do you take it?

What if I am in the yard and I say, "It's okay, you can take it." Then is it okay?

RP: What if a stranger comes into the yard and says, "Hi (child's name), I'm a friend of your Mom's and she left her keys at my house. Could you give them to her for me please?"

Is this a grownup with a problem? Is it your job to take care of that grownup?

No, it isn't and the grownup should either solve his/her own problem or find another grownup to help solve it.

RP: What if you were sitting in your yard playing with something that was really special to you and someone you didn't know came up and said, "That's really lovely! Can I look at it?" What would you do?

The child should stop what she is doing, stand up, back up and pay attention. This can be really hard for some children, so work with them gently to see that they are worth more than their toys and that you want them to back up, no matter what the stranger has.

RP: What if the person picks up something you're playing with and says, "I think it might rain, you should take this into the house." What would you do?

The child should back up several more steps.

What if the person says, "Well, if you don't care about this, I think I'll take it with me." What would you do?

Again, the child should back up and then run into the house and find an adult.

RP: What if the person does something that makes you feel afraid, what would you do?

If a stranger keeps getting closer or keeps talking to you, or does anything that makes you nervous or scared, or you think something is wrong, what should you do?

Back up four steps and then turn around and run to someone who can help them.

The four steps back should be automatic for children. This means they need to practice. This can be fun and effective on a playground.

RP: If you're really scared, what could you do to get a grownup's attention?

You could scream as loud as you can while you are running.

Have the children practice backing up, screaming "I need help," and running. Probably best to do this on the playground in a group or in your house!

Children usually run behind bushes, behind a car, etc. You want to clearly establish that they should run TO someone who can help them. They never run away, they always run to someone.

When you run, you also need to yell so any grownup you will know something's wrong.

What would you yell?

Example: "Mom, there's a man in the yard." It is important for children to be able to scream effectively.

Okay, last one. Do you remember Rule #4? The last rule is really easy to remember because it rhymes:

IF YOU DON'T KNOW, DON'T GO!

RP: What if you were waiting in your yard for your car pool and a woman you never saw before stopped to say that she was going to drive you to school that day? What would you do?

What if she had a bunch of the other kids from your school already in the car? What would you do?

Children tend to think it would be all right to go because there are children they know in the car. It is better for them to let mom or dad know that there is someone else driving that day.

RP: What if you were waiting for your mom to pick you up at school and a policeman said, "Your mom was in an accident and you need to come with me right away." What would you do?

Policemen are strangers too and the reality is that anyone in a uniform may look like a policeman. Children should know that they always have permission to go and ask someone they know before going with an adult who claims authority over them.

Next time we will learn another rule.

Note: The effectiveness of these rules for your child will depend on practice. Feel free to play the "What if..." game to assess their ability to actually apply the rules.