



FBI's Summer Safety Tips for Parents

As the school year draws to a close, many parents are planning for their children's summer activities. Whether they are spending the summer at home with parents or a nanny or tutor, or away from home at a summer camp, the FBI is sharing important safety tips with parents to help ensure that children are being cared for under the watchful eyes of trusted and vetted adults.

Know your child care providers. Choose babysitters, nannies and tutors with care. Obtain references from family, friends and neighbors. Many states now have registries for public access to check criminal history or sex-offender status. Observe the interaction with your children, and ask your children how they feel about your child care provider. Do background screening and reference checks on everyone who works in your home, particularly those people who care for your children. Check references with other families who have used the child care providers. Make sure you know as much about them as they do about you and your family. For access to sex-offender registries, visit www.nsopw.gov.

Check out camps and summer programs before enrolling your children. Ask if a background screening check is completed on the individuals working with the children. Make sure there will be adult supervision of your children at all times, and make sure you are made aware of all activities and field trips offered by the camp or program.

Observe how adults work with your children. Be involved in your children's activities and if you are concerned about anyone's behavior, discuss your concerns with the sponsoring organization. Notice when anyone shows one or all of your children a great deal of attention or tries to give them gifts. Take the time to talk to your children about the person and find out why that person is acting in this way. Tell your children to never accept money or gifts from anyone unless you have told them it is OK.

Know where your children are and who they are with. Make sure an adult whom you have met and know the background of is supervising children any time they are outside or away from home. Review rules with your children about whose homes they may visit and discuss the boundaries of where they may and may not go in the neighborhood.

Talk to your children about safety and encourage them to tell you or another trusted adult if anyone or anything makes them feel sad, scared or confused. Teach them it is OK to tell you what happened and they will not be "tattletales" for telling. Be aware of others who are paying special attention to your children as they may have ulterior motives for befriending them.

Remember to stay alert, informed and focused about personal-security issues. Being available and taking time to really know and listen to your children helps build feelings of safety and security. Be sure children know what to do in case of an emergency and how to reach you by phone. Children should have a trusted adult, whom you know, to call if they are scared or there is an emergency.

The FBI's Child ID App Putting Safety in Your Hands



Every year, thousands of children go missing. The FBI's Child ID App can help. Simply download the free FBI mobile application from the App Store on iTunes, add the latest photos of

your child, enter key information about him or her and update it regularly. In the unlikely event that your child goes missing, you can quickly email the photos and information to authorities. The app also includes safety advice and checklists for parents. And please be assured, no information about you or your child will be collected or stored by the FBI or iTunes.

For more information, contact the FBI's Child Exploitation Task Force at 1-800-CALL-FBI or your local FBI field office. For additional child safety tips, visit FBI.gov or National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at www.missingkids.com.