

Going to School Safely

- A.** Begin by walking the route to and from the school with your child. Point out landmarks and safe places to go if he is being followed or needs help. He should be taught to use main roads and avoid using shortcuts and isolated areas.
- B.** Instruct your child to walk in the direction of on-coming traffic, if possible. When doing this, he will be able to see vehicles as they approach and it will give him more time to react if a vehicle stops or tries to follow him.
- C.** Your child should always take a friend when walking or riding his bike to school. It's a lot safer, and it makes his trip a lot more fun.
- D.** If your child rides the bus, visit the bus stop with your child and learn the bus number. Knowing what bus to ride will avoid confusion for your child.
- E.** If anyone bothers your child while going to and from school or while waiting at the bus stop, you should teach your child to get away quickly from that person and to tell a trusted adult.
- F.** Tell your child that if someone is following him to get away as quickly as possible. If someone follows him in a car, he should turn around and quickly go in the other direction and look for a safe place to run. Older children should try to remember the vehicle's license plate number.
- G.** If an adult approaches your child and asks for help or directions, remember that grownups needing help should ask other adults, not children. You should instruct your child to get away from that person and to tell a trusted adult.
- H.** Teach your child that he is never to walk too close to vacant buildings or parked cars, and to never stop and talk to anyone sitting in or on a parked car. Children must never, ever, get into a parked car or accept a ride from a stranger.
- I.** If anyone tries to force your child into a car or isolated area, instruct him to scream loudly and to scatter his books or belongings. If he is attacked for money, jewelry or clothing, he should give it up rather than risk personal injury.
- J.** Your child should be taught to never leave school with someone he doesn't know or makes him feel uncomfortable. If someone tells him that there's an emergency and he wants your child to go with him, your child should always check with the school office first.