



## Columbus Police Department School Safety Tips



As the nation celebrates National Crime Prevention Month, the Columbus Division of Police offers the following tips for keeping our children safe on their way to, during and after school.

Schools play an invaluable role in molding the minds of our children. However, it is the parents' or guardian's job to ensure that children are provided the tools to keep themselves safe during their formative years. The following safety tips, when shared with children, will help keep your child's youth full of happy memories.

### **Safety Tips**

Tell your child that anything that makes him or her uncomfortable or suspicious should be reported immediately to you and to school officials.

Make sure your child travels in groups to and from school; kids in groups are generally safer.

Explain and discuss with your child the meaning of "stranger." Don't assume your child follows the same beliefs you do. Many children, when tested, have trusted a "stranger" when that person merely introduces themselves or presents themselves in a trustworthy manner.

Teach and give your child the permission to say "No" to unwelcome propositions by adult figures.

Ask about the safety plan for your child's school. Specifically, how are local police involved; how are students and parents involved; and what emergencies plans are in place?

Be aware of and examine the routes your child takes when walking or biking to school – whatever your child's age. Check out school bus or regular bus stop areas if your child uses them. Look for hazardous shortcuts that might tempt or take them out of public view. Discuss and agree upon safe walking and biking areas to and from school.

Establish rules for before and after school play. Ensure that children convey any after school activities or plans for visiting friends with you. Know the parents of friends being visited.



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Taking the time to talk to your children about the above safety tips can ensure your child's safety and a lifetime of happy childhood memories.