



# Streetproofing

## At School, In the Home, On the Street

*Caring means taking an active part in your children's lives, teaching them needed skills that will guide them as they grow.*

*Streetproofing techniques can be used by your children both in your home and while outside at play.*

### GUIDELINES THAT MAY ASSIST YOUR CHILD

- Know who your children play with, where they go and what routes they take. This includes keeping a list of their friend's addresses and phone numbers.
- Do not leave your child in unsupervised locations, such as cars, parks, public washrooms, arenas, malls and plazas, etc.
- Tell your children never go anywhere with a stranger, take anything from a stranger or talk to a stranger unless they require assistance from a "safe" stranger such as a police officer, sales staff working behind a sales counter, or firefighter.
- Teach your children where and how to get help. In the event that they become separated from you or lost tell them to seek help from a "safe" stranger in the same general area or find a public telephone and dial 9-1-1 (no coin is required).
- Develop a "what if" game for the kids to get them thinking of how they would respond if they felt threatened or afraid.
- Your child's body is private. Tell your child that no one may touch the area their bathing suit covers. If someone does or tries to touch them, they should advise you immediately.
- Make up an emergency kit for your child. It should include information such as, emergency numbers,

your number at work, medical information, and quarters for a pay phone.

- Teach your children to talk to you immediately when someone does anything that makes them feel strange or uncomfortable. Listen when your children are trying to tell you about something that bothers them and provide them with support and understanding.



### GUIDELINES THAT MAY ASSIST YOU

- Keep an up-to-date photograph, and other detailed information about your child on file at home, such as height, weight, scars, and other specifics. Many police agencies have child identification kits available for this purpose, free of charge.
- If your child becomes separated or you think they may be lost, DON'T panic. If you are in a store or mall go

to the nearest courtesy desk or ask for security. If you are at home, call their friends and notify Police.

- Watch for changes in your child's behaviour as it could indicate something is wrong. i.e.: hesitation to go with certain people; loss of appetite; withdrawal or depression; aggressiveness, etc.

### SCHOOL

- Go with your child to the bus stop and meet them when they return from school.
- Encourage your child to use a buddy system instead of walking alone.
- Try to have it prearranged that if an emergency happens, that a specific person your child already knows, picks them up.
- Make sure the school has a list of people your child can be released to. This also applies for day camp, swimming lessons, hockey, etc.
- Avoid having your child's name visible on his or her clothing, lunch boxes, and other belongings, as it advertises to everyone who they are. A stranger may read their name and call out to them, fooling your child into believing this person knows them.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**PEEL REGIONAL POLICE**  
**Crime Prevention Services**  
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 Brampton, Ontario  
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You may also want to examine our Internet site at:

[www.peelpolice.ca](http://www.peelpolice.ca)

