

## Safety Tips for Parents of School Age Children

- Be sure your child knows his or her home telephone number (including area code) and address, your work number, the number of another trusted adult, and how to use 911 for emergencies.
- Plan a walking route to school or the bus stop. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and use intersections with crossing guards. Test the route with your child. Tell him/her to stay away from parks, vacant lots, fields, and other places where there aren't many people around.
- Teach children --- whether walking, biking, or riding the bus to school --- to obey all traffic signals, signs, traffic officers, and safety patrols. Remind them to be extra careful in rainy, foggy, or snowy weather.
- Make sure they walk to and from school with others – a friend, neighbor, brother, sister.
- Teach your child never to talk to strangers or accept rides or gifts from strangers. Remember, a stranger is anyone you or your children doesn't know well or doesn't trust.
- When car pooling, drop off and pick up children as close to school as possible. Don't leave until they have entered the school yard or building.
- If your child is home alone for a few hours after school:
  - Set up rules for locking doors and windows, answering the door and telephone.

- Make sure he/she checks in with you or a neighbor immediately after school.
  - Talk about what activities your child can and can not do while home alone.
  - Agree on rules for inviting friends over and for going to a friend's house when no adult is home.
- Take time to listen carefully to children's fears and felling about people or places that scare them or make them feel uneasy. Tell them to trust their instincts. Take complaints about bullies and other concerns seriously.