

Back-to-School Child Safety Checklist for Parents/Guardians



- ❑ **Know which adults have access to and contact with your child and make sure they have been properly screened.** Also, it is very important to get to know your child's friends and their parents/guardians, as well as where they live.
- ❑ **Determine the policy for releasing students both after school and at other times.** Does the school require visitors to register in the front office, and have you provided a list of people who may remove your child from school?
- ❑ **Determine the policy concerning notification in case of an emergency.** What is the school's policy for notification if a child is absent and the parent/guardian doesn't advise the school?
- ❑ **Take time today to update your child's ID photo.** A recent photo is one of the most important tools needed by law enforcement if a child goes missing. Download a Power of Parents photo ID guide and enroll in the six-month photo update email reminder on www.duracell.com/parents.
- ❑ **If your child walks to school, walk the route with him/her to identify landmarks and safe places to go if he/she is being followed or needs help.** Create a map with your child showing acceptable routes to and from school using main roads and avoiding shortcuts and isolated areas.
- ❑ **If your child rides the bus, visit the bus stop with him/her and learn the bus number.** This will help eliminate confusion for your child regarding which bus to ride.
- ❑ **Make sure young children are properly supervised going to and from school, whether it is by you as a parent/guardian, an older sibling or another trusted adult.** Remind older children to always take a friend when walking or riding their bikes to and from school.
- ❑ **Discuss with your child what he/she should do if anyone follows, approaches or in any way bothers him/her. Include instructions to get away quickly and to tell a trusted adult.** Teach your child that if anyone tries to take him/her away, he/she should yell loudly and make every effort to get away by kicking, screaming and resisting.
- ❑ **Find opportunities or "teachable moments" to practice safety skills with your child.** Create "what if" scenarios for your child to make sure he/she understands safety messages and how to use them in a real situation.
- ❑ **If your child goes home alone, make sure the rules for safety at home are clearly understood.** Prepare an emergency contact list (kept close to the telephone) that includes phone numbers for you, law enforcement, the fire department, ambulance service, doctor, poison-control center and at least one other trusted adult.
- ❑ **Check with the school to see what policy it has regarding posting names and photos online.** Identifying/personal information should not be posted in a public forum. If photos are posted, they should be group photos that do not identify individual children in any way. Also, caution your child about carrying or wearing items that visibly display his/her name. Those items should be left at home.



Update Your Child's ID Photo Today

A recent survey conducted by Duracell and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children found that **only 49 percent of parents/guardians who have an emergency photo of their child update it every six months** - the timeframe recommended by experts. Take time now to update your child's photo and identification information.

Visit www.duracell.com/parents for a free, downloadable Power of Parents photo ID guide and enroll in the six-month photo update reminder service.



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