



Tips for being a Savvy Parent!

🌸 Guidelines for starting the conversation

Sometimes, the hardest part about talking to your kids about safety is just learning how to get the conversation going! Here are some simple tips and helpful ways to help you get the safety talk going with your kids!

- Keep it **short and simple**
- **Never** use scare tactics
- Be a good **listener**
- **Ask** open ended questions
- Don't be discouraged if your child does not seem interested in talking at first...**THEY ARE.**

Ask your child:

- What was the best/worst part of your day?
- Who are your "safe adults" at school/sports/in your neighborhood?
- Has anyone ever given you a creepy "uh-oh" feeling?
- What did (or would) you do if you got the "uh-oh" feeling?
- What ideas do you have about being safe?
- Did you have to make a "safe choice" this week?

🌸 Red Flags and Warning Signs

- Anyone who repeatedly ignores social, emotional or physical boundary limits.
- Refuses to let a child set his or her own limits.
- Insists on hugging, touching, kissing, tickling, wrestling with or holding a child even when the child does not want the physical contact.
- Shares inappropriate personal or private information with a child, which should normally be shared with adults only.
- Frequently points out sexual images or tells inappropriate or suggestive stories or jokes with children present.
- Seems overtly interested in the sexuality of a particular child or teen and talks repeatedly about the child's developing body.
- Insists upon or manages to spend uninterrupted time alone with a child.
- Appears too good to be true, frequently offering to babysit for free, taking kids out alone on outings or giving them money or gifts for no apparent reason.
- Frequently walks in on children/teens in the bathroom or changing.
- Continually invites children to spend time alone at their home enticing them with the latest toys or gadgets. Especially an adult who does not have children of their own.
- Seems especially preoccupied with a particular child and lavishes them with inappropriate attention.
- Anyone who regularly visits public places where children gather and spends a significant amount of time staring at or trying to photograph children without permission.

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