

# Role Playing With Your Children

1. You are outside playing. Someone you do not know calls you over to their car. The person is lost and wants directions. What do you do?
2. You are outside with your friends. A stranger offers you your favorite kind of candy. What do you do?
3. Your parents are not home. The doorbell rings. When you look outside, you see a stranger at the door. What do you do?
4. You are shopping with your mom at the mall. You get lost and cannot find her. What do you do?
5. You are walking home. Someone you do not know drives up and tells you that your mom wants you to ride home with them. What do you do?
6. You are riding your bicycle from school. You have a flat tire on your bike. A stranger stops and offers to take you and your bike home. What do you do?



## GENERAL PHONE NUMBERS

Area Code (315)

Abused Persons Unit .....	435-3092
Accident Records .....	435-3029
Civil Department .....	435-3060
Community Relations .....	435-3006
Criminal Investigations .....	435-3081
Custody Department .....	435-1770
Fire Investigation Team .....	435-2525
Human Resources .....	435-1767
Justice Center .....	435-1770
Media Relations .....	435-3033
Neighborhood Watch of CNY .....	435-3201
Office of the Sheriff .....	435-3044
Police Administration .....	435-3036
Pistol License Unit .....	435-2037
Police Records .....	435-3010
Sex Offender Registry .....	435-3092
Sheriff's ID Cards .....	435-3009
Special Investigations Unit .....	435-5434
Warrants Investigation Unit .....	435-3032



Sheriff  
Eugene J. Conway



# CHILD SAFETY



407 South State Street Syracuse, NY 13202

## WHAT IS A “STRANGER?”

Parents, explain to your children that a stranger is anyone they do not know! A stranger can be a man or woman, well-dressed or shabby, nice or threatening, attractive or unattractive. Tell them that when they are alone or away from home, a **STRANGER EQUALS DANGER**. That sometimes a stranger may try to trick them by saying, “I know your mom or dad,” or “Don’t you remember me?” Develop a **SECRET CODE WORD** to use in the event that you ever need to send someone your children do not know to pick them up.



## IF YOUR CHILD IS MISSING...

**IMMEDIATELY** report this information to the Sheriff’s Office or your local law enforcement agency. This will ensure that your child is entered in the National Crime Information Center’s computer system. Our deputies will work with you in locating your child. Keep a current Safe Child ID Card of your child to give to the deputy to assist others in locating and identifying your child.



## SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN

- Learn your name, address, and phone number.
- Learn about 9-1-1 and how to call for help.
- Walk and play with others. The “buddy system” is a good safety tool.
- **DO NOT** accept rides from strangers.
- Never enter a house or building with a stranger.
- If a person drives up to ask directions, do not approach the car. Walk or run away from the stranger in the car.
- If anyone should grab you, **SCREAM**, break free, and run away as fast as you can! Tell the first adult you see what happened.
- If you are home alone, keep the house locked and never open the door to anyone you do not know. Never tell a caller you are home alone.
- No one, not even someone you know, has the right to touch you in any way that makes you feel uncomfortable. You have a right to say “**NO**” to an adult in this situation.
- Always take the safest route when walking to school or to your friend’s house. (Discuss these safe routes with your parents.) Shortcuts through wooded areas and construction sites are very dangerous!

## SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

**Take Responsibility**– Know where your children are at all times. Be familiar with their friends and daily activities.

**Build Self-Esteem**– A Child who has low self-esteem cannot protect himself/herself. Listen carefully to your children’s fears, and be supportive in all your discussions with them, replacing fear with knowledge.

**Teach Decision-Making**– Children at all ages make decisions. Practice early with little decisions so big decisions later are easier. Teach them to trust their own feelings, and assure them they have the right to say NO to what they sense is wrong.

**Build Support Systems**– Children need positive adult role models and need to know where to go for help.

**Choose Substitute Care Givers Carefully**– Interview and monitor babysitters, group leaders, youth pastors, etc. Be alert to a teenager or adult who is playing an unusual amount of attention to your children or giving them inappropriate or expensive gifts.

**Protect Kids Who Are Home Alone**– Set ground rules, emergency contacts, and responsibilities for latchkey kids.

**Talk With Children**– Teach your children that no one should approach them or touch them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable. If someone does, they should tell their parents immediately.

**Use Role-Playing**– Rehearse safety situations with your child. Give them power through knowledge. Play the What if game.

**Let Kids Be Kids**– Teach them what they will need to know to be safe and let them know you will do your best to protect them.