

25 Tips to Keep Children and Youth Safe

SAFE AT HOME

1. **Don't let anyone know you're home alone.** If a stranger knocks at your door, don't answer it
 2. **Make sure all doors and entrances** have good lighting and are locked both when you're at home or when you're away.
 3. **Know what to do in case of an emergency.** Keep a list of emergency numbers near the phone.
 4. **Keep your bike and sports equipment inside** the house when they're not in use.
 5. **Before you leave your house,** tell your parent or caregiver where you are going, who you are going to be with, and when you plan to return.
-

SAFE ONLINE

6. **Never post or share your personal information online.**
 7. **Only open emails or download** pictures, games or documents from people that you know.
 8. **Never meet anyone face to face** who you only know online.
 9. **If you shouldn't say it in person, don't say it online.** Delete offensive messages. Don't write it. Don't forward it.
 10. **Report cyberbullying** or other inappropriate messages to a trusted adults.
-

SAFE AT SCHOOL

11. **Leave valuables,** such as jewelry and expensive electronic devices, at home.
12. **Never leave your backpack or purse unattended** and secure your locker at all times.
13. **Settle arguments with words, not fists or weapons.** If your school doesn't have a conflict mediation program, help start one.
14. **Tell a teacher, parent or trusted adult if you're worried about a bully** or threats of violence by another student.
15. **Everyone plays a role in school safety.** Let an adult know if you see or hear something that may bring harm to others.

SAFE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

16. **Stay alert and tuned into your surroundings** wherever you are – at school or the mall, on the street, waiting for a bus or subway, or driving.
17. **Trust your instincts.** If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or situation and leave as soon as possible.
18. **Organize neighborhood cleanup days** to send the message that your community is closed to thieves, vandals and loiterers.
19. **Participate in or start a neighborhood watch program.**
20. **Report crime or suspicious activities** to the police or an adult you trust.

SAFE IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

21. **Be clear and honest** when communicating with others.
22. **Take a break from a heated discussion** to cool off.
23. **Ask for help** if you need it.
24. **Remove yourself from the situation** if you are with someone who makes you uncomfortable. Seek help from an adult you trust.
25. **In dating relationships, you have the right to refuse affection** and a responsibility to respect the limits of others.



“**Safety Net For Youth Top 25**” is a part of National Safe Place’s 25th anniversary celebration, “Building A Safety Net For Youth.” Each month during 2008, National Safe Place and a national partner will highlight tips, resources and concerns related to major youth service issues. For more information about the campaign, visit www.safetynetforyouth.org.

National Safe Place, founded in 1983 in Louisville, Ky. and headquartered there, provides training and technical assistance for youth service agencies and businesses interested in developing a Safe Place program. Safe Places provide access to immediate help and safety for all young people in crisis. A public-private network of more than 16,000 sites across the country extends the doors of local youth shelters by displaying the Safe Place sign. Business partners and community locations that appeal to youth – such as fast food restaurants, convenience stores, fire stations, public buses and libraries – connect kids looking for help with the youth service agency. More than 105,000 youth have received immediate help at Safe Place location since the program’s inception. For additional information, visit <http://www.nationalsafeplace.org>.

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), is a private, nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to be the nation’s leader in helping people keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe from crime. NCPC manages public service advertising under the National Citizens’ Crime Prevention Campaign – symbolized by McGruff The Crime Dog ® and this “Take a Bite Out of Crime ®” slogan – and acts as secretariat for the Crime Prevention Coalition of America, more than 400 national, federal, state, and local organizations representing thousands of constituents who are committed to preventing crime. NCPC is funded through a variety of government agencies, corporate and private foundations, and donations from private individuals. For more information on crime prevention issues, visit www.ncpc.org