

personal safety on- and off-line

to learn more about child safety, visit www.take25.org.



Conversation Starters

Does finding 25-minutes to talk to your kids or your busy tweens and teens about safety seem impossible? Try the following discussion starters.

KIDS

ages 5 to 8

AT HOME

1. Could you tell me our home address? How about our home number? My work number? My cell phone number?
2. Has anyone ever called or knocked on the door while I was gone? What did you do?
3. Let's make a list of 3 people whom you can call in case of an emergency if you can't reach me.

ON THE NET

1. What is your favorite website? Could you show me?
2. Does your screen name or e-mail address give clues about who you are, such as your name or age? If so, let's come up with a safer one.
3. Who are the friends you talk to on the Internet? Do you know all of them in person?

AT SCHOOL

1. If you felt like you were in danger while walking to school, where would you go for help? Let's walk to your school together and pick some safe places to go in case you need help.
2. Do you and your friends stay together when you are walking to and from school?
3. If someone bullied you at school, what would you do? Would you tell me?

OUT AND ABOUT

1. If an adult approached you and asked for help, what would you do?
2. If you got lost while we were in the park, at the store, or at a sports game, what would you do? Whom should you ask for help?
3. If someone touches you in a way that makes you uncomfortable or tries to take you away, you should yell "NO!" at the top of your voice. Let's practice saying "NO!" Then, let's see how fast you can run away.

TWEENS

ages 9 to 12

ONLINE

1. Which websites do you like to visit? Can you show them to me?
2. Have you ever come across anything on the Web which made you feel uncomfortable?

3. If someone sent you a mean text message or IM what would you do?
4. What do you think about sharing passwords with your friends? Do you think it's okay to share your password with your best friend?
5. When you come across pop-ups advertising offers or contests for free games, food or other prizes, do you enter your personal information to try to win them?

OFFLINE

1. If something happened at school that made you feel bad or scared, who would you talk to? Would you tell me?
2. Before you and your friends go out, do you know where to go and what to do if you are separated from them?
3. How comfortable are you saying "no" to your friends when they ask you to do something that you don't want to do?
4. Has anyone ever tried to get you to go somewhere or do something you didn't feel comfortable doing? What did you do?
5. Has anyone ever touched you in a way that made you feel scared or uncomfortable? Did you know what to do?

TEENS

ages 13 to 17

ONLINE

1. What kind of information do you feel is safe to share about yourself online?
2. Do you feel comfortable with the information that you have posted online, knowing that it might be seen by anyone on your friends list, as well as officials at your school, college and university admissions departments, and employers?
3. Have you and your friends talked about what types of pictures are okay to post online? What about the types of comments you leave on each others' pages?
4. Do you know about the different types of scams that people run to try to gain your personal information?
5. Have you ever been insulted, or traded insults with anyone, through texts, e-mail, or IM?

OFFLINE

1. Do you and your friends stay together when you go out or do you split up? Do you know what to do if someone tries to touch or grab you inappropriately?
2. Do you pay attention to your surroundings, especially when walking alone? What would you do if someone approached you on foot or in a vehicle?
3. What would you do if the person who drove you had been drinking alcohol or made you feel uncomfortable?
4. How comfortable are you saying "no" to your friends when they ask you to do something that you don't want to do?
5. If you were bullied online or at school how would you react to the situation? Who are the trusted adults you could talk to if you were being bullied?