

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARING ADULTS

WHAT EVERY CARING ADULT NEEDS TO KNOW

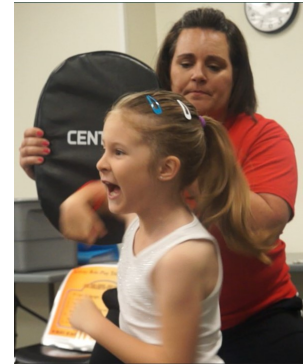
Talking about statistics with children is not the way to teach them about safety. The other side of this flyer has tips on talking with your children. This information is for you to know and understand. Use real-life “teachable” moments to teach your children how to be aware of their surroundings and think about BRAVE Safety Plans to escape potentially dangerous situations. Reassure your child by empowering them. Most importantly, trust your instincts if something or someone doesn’t feel right.

- Over 85% of all violent crimes against children, including abduction and sexual abuse, are perpetrated by someone the family knows and trusts.
- Over 800,000 children are reported missing every year.
- Over 204,000 children are abducted by family members each year.
- 58,000 children are abducted by people who are not a part of their family.
 - Of those, about 115 children are taken by strangers and not recovered alive within the first year (less than 1%).
- 1 in 4-5 girls and 1 in 7-10 boys are sexually abused before age 18.
- 150,000 - 300,000 American youth are trafficked each year. More than half of these children are either runaways or are homeless.
 - 1/3 of all runaway/homeless youth are solicited for sex within 48 hours.
 - Traffickers target victims in malls, coffee shops, parties, anywhere young people gather, and they prey on insecurity, a need to feel wanted, and those who lack parental involvement or support.
- Children aged 11 to 17 are equally vulnerable to sexual abuse and abduction as younger children.



In Loving Memory of
Samantha Runion
July 26, 1996—July 15, 2002
Samantha's Motto:
“BE BRAVE”

Be **B**rave - Be Safe.
Be **R**eady by planning ahead.
Be **A**ware of your surroundings.
Be **V**ictorious and stand up for yourself.
Be **E**mpowered to stop violence.



The Joyful Child Foundation
In Memory of
Samantha Runion
is dedicated to preventing
crimes against children
through programs that
educate, empower, and
unite families and
communities.

BRAVE PROGRAMS

For the Adults:

- BRAVE Parent Presentation
- Ambassador Training
- BRAVE Instructor Training

For the Children:

- School-based supplemental health and physical education BRAVE Curricula for grades K-12th
- Community-based BRAVE Workshops

HOW TO TEACH SAFETY WITHOUT SCARING YOUR CHILDREN

- Don't assume your child knows how to be safe, no matter how old they are. Do not lecture. Ask questions and use real-life opportunities to teach them how to develop a plan for their safety.
 - Who are the Safe Adults? If he/she gets separated from you or is visiting someone, who could he/she go to for help? Does he/she know your cell phone number and/or how to call 9-1-1?
 - Discuss the few people on your child's school emergency card. First, make sure your child is comfortable with each of those people. Then, explain that these are the only people you would send to pick them up. Agree that your child will always ask you before going into anyone's house (even the neighbor's) or vehicle.
 - Decide on a code word or phrase that your child can use to tell you he/she doesn't feel safe.
- Where could he/she go to get away from danger? Together, decide where your family will meet if you get separated; e.g. a neighbor's house if there is a fire, or the cash-register at a store, or a landmark.
- Ask your child if he/she has a plan for different situations as they arise. Try not to give the 'right' answers, but ask questions to help him/her realize where his/her plan may not be the safest option. For example, if your child wants to hide from someone scary, ask what they will do if the person waits. You want your child to know that it is always safer to let people know when they are afraid. They should always get away from danger, go toward people, and ask or call for help.
- Listen to your children. If they share fears of certain people or places, assure them that you will not make them go to that person or place alone. Ask how you can help them feel safe. If a child says someone has hurt him/her or behaved inappropriately, believe them and report it to the authorities.
- Tell your children that their safety is the most important thing. Tell your children that no one, whether it is a stranger or a family member, a child or an adult, no one has the right to hurt him/her.
- Explain to your child that private parts are the parts of the body covered by a bathing suit and teach children the proper names of the specific body parts. Proper names avoid confusion and empower children to communicate effectively if someone touches them inappropriately.
- Promise your child that because his/her safety is most important, you will not get angry if he/she makes a mistake and needs help to get out of danger. Explain that it is never a child's fault if someone tries to hurt or trick them.

SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR CHILDREN

1. No one has the right to hurt me.
2. If anyone makes me uncomfortable or tries to trick or hurt me, it's not my fault, so I can tell adults I trust until I feel safe. If the first adult I tell doesn't help, I will keep telling safe adults.
3. If an adult I don't know asks me for help, I RUN and TELL a safe adult to make sure it is safe.
4. I always ask my safe adult before I go anywhere with anyone.
5. I always have a friend or safe adult with me when I am outside. I don't take shortcuts.
6. If I get lost in a store, I go to the cash register and ask someone who works there to help me find my family. If I get lost, I ask a safe adult like a police officer, teacher, or a mother with children.
7. Secrets that don't feel right, make me feel bad or worried are the ones that I share with a safe adult.
8. My private parts are covered by my bathing suit and no one should look at me without my clothes unless I have a parent with me, like at the doctor's office.
9. No one should ask me to look at or touch private parts and no games with private parts are okay. If someone makes me uncomfortable, I don't have to be polite. I get away and tell a safe adult.
10. If anyone tries to take me somewhere without asking my parents first, I will YELL, RUN, and TELL. If I can't run, I will use my BRAVE Physical Defense Skills until I can get away.