

TIP OF THE MONTH

I recently had a conversation with my 7 year old, about what to do in case of a household fire. This reminded me of several safety tips we were taught as children, that we should reinforce with our own children on a regular basis. We can't take for granted that our children will learn all of these safety tips in school, or expect them to know exactly what to do in every situation.

1. Have a safety plan, in case you have a household fire. It should consist of how to get out of the house and where to go when they get out. Make sure you tell them not to come back into the house and not to take anything with them, not even their favorite toy or pet. If your plan involves a neighbor, tell them whose house they should go to, to call 911.
2. Don't talk to strangers. School is back in session and lots of people are walking around. Tell your children not to talk to strangers, even if they say "your mom asked me to come and pick you up", etc. Also, make sure they know NOT to accept anything from strangers (candy, food, drinks, etc.)
3. Will your children be home alone, until you get home? If so, make sure they keep all doors locked and DO NOT open the door for anyone, or tell anyone on the phone that their parents aren't home. They can reply by saying "he/she is not available right now". Tell your children that it is always "ok" for them to call 911 if someone shows up at the house and your child is alone and is not comfortable or feels threatened by someone trying to talk them into opening the door.
4. Teach them about 911.
5. Make sure your children know your contact information. This would include your name, phone number and where you work, in case first responders need to reach you.

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