



PEARLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

TELEPHONE (281) 997-4100 FAX (281) 997-4350 2555 CULLEN PARKWAY PEARLAND, TEXAS 77581

J.C. DOYLE – CHIEF OF POLICE

WHO IS A STRANGER?

A stranger is anyone that your family doesn't know well. It's common for children to think that "bad strangers" look scary, like the villains in cartoons. This is not only not true, but it's dangerous for children to think this way.

Pretty strangers can be just as dangerous as the not-so-pretty ones. When you talk to your children about strangers, explain that no one can tell if strangers are nice or not nice just by looking at them and that they should be careful around all strangers.

But don't make it seem like all strangers are bad. If children need help--whether they're lost, being threatened by a bully, or being followed by a stranger--the safest thing for them to do in many cases is to ask a stranger for help. You can make this easier for them by showing them which strangers are okay to trust (i.e. Policeman, Fireman, Teachers, Store Clerks.....)

STRANGER DANGER TIPS FOR CHILDREN

Always tell your parents where you are.

Try not to walk anywhere alone.

Don't take shortcuts through a wooded area.

Bad people do not always look mean or scary.

Do not get close to strangers.

Do not tell your name or address to a stranger.

Never go with a stranger to look for a lost pet.

Never get into a car with anyone you don't know.

Never enter someone's home or place of business without a parent.

If a stranger bothers you, run away.

Know safe places you can go (such as Police or Fire Stations).



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If a stranger follows you or grabs for you, yell loud and make as much noise as you can.

If anyone touches you in a bad way, say "NO!"

Tell your parents about places you don't feel safe.

Talk with your parents and come up with a secret code word.

If you have to ask for help from a stranger, if possible seek help from a police officer or teacher.

Call 911 to report a stranger.

Never open the door to a stranger.

Never tell anyone on the phone you are home alone.

STRANGER DANGER TIPS FOR PARENTS

Children should always carry some sort of identification including name, address, telephone number and emergency contact information. Have the identification card laminated to last longer. Have this identification in a secure location and not attached to a backpack.

Map your child's route to and from school with them. Walk with them from time-to-time.

Make sure your children follow this route with no deviations unless they get your permission FIRST.

Teach your child how to use the telephone in order to dial 9-1-1.

Avoid allowing your children to wear clothing with their name clearly displayed.

Teach your child to tell you if anything happens that makes them feel unsafe.

If your children are left with a babysitter ask your children to talk about this experience.

When using a babysitter make sure you check out references.