

Keeping Kids Safe

Pre-reading

Questions:

- Do you worry about keeping your children safe?
- What do you think children need to know to stay safe?

Definitions:

- Abandoned – not used anymore
- Ordinary – common, normal



Reading

15 Karla is a single parent. She has two young children. She wants to keep them
28 safe. A friend gave her some information on keeping children safe. The information
35 says that parents should do the following:

- 35 • Walk through the neighborhood with your children. Show them safe places they
48 can go in an emergency. A safe place may be a neighbor's house or a store.
- 64 • Check your neighborhood for areas that are not safe. Abandoned buildings are not
78 safe. Areas with lots of trees or bad lighting are not safe.
- 90 • Teach them not to talk to strangers. Teach them that strangers do not look like
106 monsters, they look like ordinary people.
- 112 • Make sure children know their full name, address, and phone number including
125 area code. Practice how to make an emergency phone call.
- 135 • If your children are old enough to be outside without an adult, encourage them to
151 be with friends. Tell them to stay in open areas where others can see them. If you
168 leave them home alone, leave a phone number where you can be reached.
- 181 • Teach your children that no one has the right to touch them in a way that makes
199 them feel uncomfortable. Tell them they can and should tell you if that happens.
- 213 • Listen to your children. Let them know they can talk to you about anything. Tell
229 them you will always love them.

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Adapted from the National Crime Prevention Council

Level 4.0

Understanding

1. What should you have your child practice? _____

2. Who gave Karla the information? _____
3. What areas in a neighborhood are not safe for children? _____

4. When you walk through the neighborhood with your child, what should you show her?

5. What should you teach your child about strangers? _____

Writing

Choice A: What are some things you should teach your children to keep them safe?

Choice B: In your own words, tell about what you learned about keeping children safe.
