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# Foreword

It is becoming increasingly important in today's world be vigilant about all the negativity that surrounds the family unit and in particular the children. What would seem like an innocent and safe act or pass time, years ago, is no longer to be taken for granted. Get all the info you need here.



## ***Public Safety Patrol***

Keeping Kids Safe From The Big Bad World

# Chapter 1:

## *Public Safety Basics*

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### Synopsis

For the sake of the safety of their children all parents should be aware of the following elements and perhaps even take the time and effort to ensure the children too are fully aware of them:



## **The Basics**

There is a need today to inform parents or other adult family members of the daily activities and movement of the child before leaving the safety of the home.

Going further to ensure the parent is aware of the activities indulged in and the approval given would be an even stronger precautionary measure to take.

Also agreeing to stick to what has been planned without any sudden deviations is also something to impress upon the child unless prior approval is sought.

Teaching the child to avoid talking to strangers is the oldest rule in the book but often not really enforced, especially when the parent themselves allow a stranger to coo and chuckle with the adorable child.

At this stage the child perception of a stranger will often be distorted thus allowing them to be prey to strangers easily.

Taking gifts and accepting transportation from strangers is also something that should be discouraged and even vehemently drummed into the child's mind.

Often a friendly offer from even a seeming known neighbor can be rather tempting, but sadly the child should be taught at a very early age not to accept such offers. Statistics have been able to show that

those known to the child are usually the ones that initiate these negative situations.



# Chapter 2:

## *Stranger Danger*

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### Synopsis

Teaching a child to be weary of anyone and everyone is indeed a rather sad thing to have to do but necessary all the same. Most strangers would seem to be friendly and helpful but the child should be taught to be weary nonetheless, as this could be the first step to trouble and it usually almost always is according to the statistics provided for by the authorities.





## Strangers

The more common caution statements made by parents would include sentences such as

- “don’t talk to strangers”,
- “don’t tell anyone your name or address”,
- “don’t accept food or drinks given by strangers and even people that would seem familiar”,
- “don’t help strangers especially with the more commonly used guise of seemingly lost or unsure of an address”,
- don’t let strangers touch you”,
- “seek help form someone in authority when someone seems a little too friendly and insistent and many other common warning that are usually drummed into children’s heads from a very early age.

However even with all these various precautions taken, there still seems to be an ever present temptation to throw caution to the wind and this is where the trouble usually begins.

Parents should also be weary of coming on too strong and making children completely filled with mistrust and overwhelmed by the seemingly constant dangers around.

Finding a happy medium ground while still making sure the child fully understands the enormity and importance, of the need to be careful of strangers is definitely worth exploring.

While trying to do just this, the parent should also try to provide actual evidence or documented proof that talking to strangers does have a lot of negative results.

This would help to reinforce the parent concerns and would also give the child real proof that trusting a stranger usually does have negative consequences.



# Chapter 3:

## *School Bus Safety*

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### Synopsis

The majority of kids today take the school bus to school and it would be wise for the parent to initiate and instill the basics rules that should be applied whenever the child is on the bus. Although there is usually an adult supervising, the child's cooperation and understanding is what will eventually contribute to the overall safety situation of all on the bus.



## **The Bus**

The following are some of the elements that should ideally be taught to the child from a very young age when it comes to the issue of riding the bus to school:

If possible, one parent should always take on the task of walking the child to the bus stop as most young children are unable to be weary and react accordingly when it comes to unexpected dangers.

This is also one way of ensuring the child gets on safely and without any unnecessary incidents. Teaching the step to be positioned away from the curb is also another important rule that the child should follow.

Often children pushing each other in jest end up in tragedies when this is done at the edge of the curb.

Instructing the child never to lean out of the bus whether it is in a stationary or moving position is also important and this should be further reinforced by the adult on the bus.

Children who are not safely seated are more likely to sustain injury when the bus brakes suddenly or has to make sudden adjustment to avoid an accident.

Reminding the child to always make eye contact with the driver of the bus before making an attempt to cross the road is also very important.

Bus drivers often become distracted by other kids and move the bus without actually being aware that there is a child crossing towards them. Also teaching a child to walk in front of the bus rather than behind is important too.



# Chapter 4:

## *Playground Safety*

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### Synopsis

Playgrounds are a wonderful area for a child to be free and happy indulging in games and other forms of plays that would contribute to the wellbeing of a healthy and happy child. Unfortunately it is also an area, where there is potential danger and parents would be advised to stay informed of such possibilities and take the necessary precautions to limit these occurrences from causing harm to their children.



## **The Playground**

Perhaps the first step to take towards ensuring the child's safety would be in the form of being prepared to supervise the kid's activities and movements in the playground area.

This supervision will allow the parent to preempt any possible accidents before it actually takes place, thus effectively avoiding injury.

Then there is also the actual material and surfaces the playground is made up of. Concrete, asphalt and blacktop are all quite unsuitable and certainly unsafe.

Grass, soil, packed earth surfaces are also considered quite unsafe due to the weather and chemical reactions that might be evident or even its inability to cushion a child's fall effectively.

Ensuring the material used is also important as there may be chemical reactions that will cause danger to the children using the playground.

Ideally the surfaces should be rubber based with material that is environmentally friendly and government approved or sanctioned.

The design and shaping of the various equipments available should also be appropriate for the various ages that would be using the facilities.

Guardrails, protective barriers and other structure should be placed accordingly to keep the children safe.

The supervision of parents is especially important around playground equipment such as swings and monkey bars as these are the two most frequent accident prone areas.

If the parent is around, such mishaps can be effectively avoided and some parent can even act as authority figures that will keep the children in check.





# Chapter 5:

## *Public Hygiene Safety*

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### Synopsis

Children should be taught about the various negative elements surrounding public facilities where hygiene is not always the priority of establishments. Teaching a child this at a very young age will ensure the child takes the necessary precautions to avoid being in contact with potential diseases and other germs that may cause sickness.



## **Cleanliness**

This is especially so when the children accompany the parent out. Places such as table tops, counters and other surfaces should ideally not be touched unnecessarily to avoid contracting any germs.

There is also the use of public toilets to consider and in using such facilities; the child should be taught the basic things like washing hands thoroughly after use.

Public hygiene safety is something that should always be at the forefront of every parent's mind and if there is a sickness of sorts going around, it may be better to stay at home where the environment is kept to a certain high standard, than to expose the family to the possibility of contracting the bug that is going round.

Even when visiting the doctor, the parent should school the child in the proper behavior to ensure the already fragile state of the child's health is not further jeopardized by being exposed to other negative elements.

Teaching the child to refrain from touching things unnecessarily is something that should be drummed into the mind of the child as this is usually the fastest way of coming in contact with germs.

Children should also be taught not to contribute to the negative behavior patterns that constitute bad public hygiene.

Learning to dispose of rubbish in the allocated receptacles and also learning not to cause a mess is also something a responsible adult

should undertake to teach the child. Teaching by setting a good example will definitely be a plus when it comes to getting the child's cooperation.



# Chapter 6:

## *Internet Safety*

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### Synopsis

Children of all ages seem to have ready access to the internet in the present day and age, thus causing them to be greatly influenced by what they see and read. It would be the duty of the parent to ensure the information being viewed is both suitable and safe for the child to indulge in.



## **The Net**

Understanding the necessity to be involved completely in the access the children have to the internet is also something that can be ventured into as a family unit.

This is especially needed for older children who may feel that they are more than capable of discerning what is good and what is not. The parent should be able to calmly and assertively be in control of what the children are participating in when they are using the internet.

There are a lot of safety issues that should be explained to the children to help them be less defensive over the parent need to supervise such endeavors.

There is documented proof and also constant warnings being issued by the authorities regarding the negative of unsupervised internet usage for children.

A lot of cases involved adults preying on the innocence of the child and this of course is a very dangerous situation for the child to be exposed to.

In most cases the parents would be encouraged to participate or at least show a keen interest in what the child is doing on the internet or on how the internet is being used by the child.

With this participation, the parent can then advise the child accordingly and also direct the child's interests to sites that are more suitable and entertaining for the particular age of the child.

This will help to keep the child interested and cooperative rather than surfing the net in secret.



# Chapter 7:

## *Latest Tech Gadgets For Child Safety*

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### Synopsis

Due to the fact that safety is often the primary concern of most parents, there are a lot of companies in the business of providing gizmos and gadgets that are childproof friendly. This is especially so when it comes to items commonly used around the house.



## **New Stuff**

One of the more common and welcomed tech gadget is the intercom and video monitors that help the parent keep a close eye on the children without actually having to be in the same area as the child.

This helps when the child is being taught to respect the private space and feelings of others, thus by extending the same courtesy to the child, the respects built is invaluable.

Going a step further, there are now gadgets available in the market that can identify the various different cries a baby makes and informs the parents accordingly what is needed to be done to comfort the baby.

Thought is may seem silly to the more experienced parent, such gadgets are almost a life saver for newer parents who are sometimes at their wits end, when it comes to trying to decipher what the child wants and needs.

There is also the latest gadget that allows the child to decrease the percentages of getting bumped, bruised or scalded when taking a bath in the tub, as the device is meant to conveniently display the temperature while making sure it is comfortable enough for the child.



There are also protective gates that can be installed and removed as and when there is a need for them and this will help to keep the child confined to the space designated as safe as opposed to having to keep a constant eye on the child that is left free to roam around.



# Chapter 8:

## *The Issues With Not Teaching Your Child Public Safety Rules*

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### Synopsis

Most parent today are quite a responsible lot and do take the time and trouble to teach their children about various safety issues that will help keep the child safe and protected.



## **Final Thoughts**

However should the child not be exposed to such teaching a lot of unfortunate incidents can and usually do occur and this is of course something that should be avoided at all cost as the resulting damage done can sometimes be so monumental and severe that recovery is either impossible or very hard.

Therefore it is in the best interest of all, especially the child that the parent ensures the child is schooled in all the various safety issues and measure.

Unfortunately there are some parents that feel it is the school's job to teach the child about safety issues and this may be acceptable if the child is going to be kept isolated until the school going age comes round.

This would be a rather ridiculous notion to even contemplate but nonetheless necessary if the parent is not going to take any responsibility in teaching the child about safety.

From as young as possible, parent should teach a child about the dangers to taking to strangers or accepting anything from them.

Another important lesson that should also be taught at a very young age, is to not tell anyone their name or address as this could lead to

negative problems if the wrong person is seeking such information. The danger of this person gaining access to the home should be made very clear to the child so that the enormity of the act can be understood.



# Wrapping Up

Children who are not taught about the dangers of inappropriate use of the internet will more than likely fall prey to unwanted attention that can eventually persuade the impressionable children into doing things that would be considered dangerous and wrong.

