

New Neighborhood Safety Tips

P Make certain that your children know their full name and learn their new address and telephone number as soon as possible.

P Take your children on a walking tour of the neighborhood, including their new school. Help them learn the surrounding streets and main road by name and landmark. Caution your children about taking shortcuts and determine some public places that they can go to for assistance if they are ever in trouble or lost.

When you get home, make a map with your children of the acceptable routes to school, the playground, store, and any other locations that they are allowed to visit. They should keep this map with them to refer to if they need help finding their way.

P If your children ride the bus to school, visit the bus stop and learn the bus number. Remind your children always to stay with other children, use the buddy system, and report any unusual or confusing incidents to you.

P Make a point of meeting your neighbors and introducing them to your children while you are with them.

P List emergency telephone numbers by your telephone as soon as possible after you move into your new home. If you have a new pager or cellular telephone number, make certain that your children have these numbers as well.

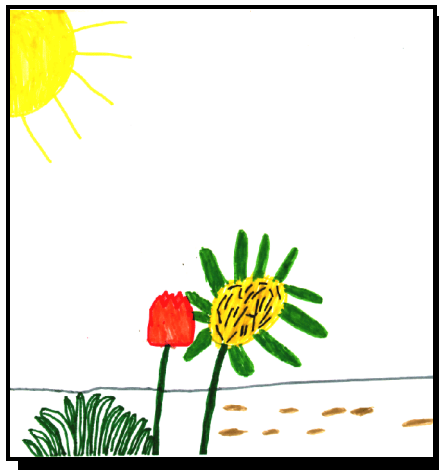
P Once your children have made new friends in the neighborhood, remind them that they must check first before they go anywhere with their new friends. This includes accepting rides from new neighbors or going into their homes.

P Remind your children of the safety rules when they are home alone. These include keeping the doors and windows locked; never opening the door for someone they don't know; and checking with you first before they open the door, even if you are there.

P Caution your children never to give out personal information to someone who calls on the telephone. Instruct your children to tell the caller that you are not available and to take a message.

P Reassure your children that you are there to help them if they need assistance or just want to talk about this new experience. Let them know that they should tell a trusted adult if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable, afraid or confused in any way.

P Remember to practice these safety rules with your children to make certain that they really know and understand them. Make outings around the new neighborhood "teachable moments" and a chance to put their skills to the test.



The NYS Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse (MECC)

MECC is a strong partner with parents and law enforcement in preventing and investigating child abduction and exploitation.

P *The 1-800-FIND-KID hotline* is maintained 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Missing child leads and sightings received on the hotline are immediately disseminated to investigating law enforcement agencies.

P *The statewide missing and unidentified person repository* is continually updated by MECC with information submitted by law enforcement agencies.

P *Investigative assistance* is provided to law enforcement agencies and parents. MECC trains law enforcement officers in basic and advanced investigative techniques. To aid in finding missing children, MECC staff members:

- ✓ Offer advice on case management practices.
- ✓ Flag birth and educational records of missing children.
- ✓ Develop missing child flyers and distribute them statewide. The *TRAK (Technology to Recover Abducted Kids)* program allows for rapid dissemination of high-quality photo images and biographical information. When a child is deemed to be "endangered", information can be sent via broadcast fax to virtually every law enforcement agency in the State in a matter of minutes.
- ✓ Place missing child photographs and biographical information and child safety information on the DCJS web site at www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us.
- ✓ Search employment, credit, motor vehicle and other records for leads.
- ✓ Analyze and enter missing person dental and other anatomical information into New York State and National Crime Information Center files.

P *MECC collaboration* with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, other state clearinghouses, other State agencies, non-profit organizations, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and courts can provide nationwide assistance to law enforcement agencies and family members.

A Message From Governor George E. Pataki



Moving to a new neighborhood is a big change for everyone in the family. It can be an exciting time but may also create some stress and confusion for family members, especially children.

Communicating with your children about the new home and neighborhood and reassuring them about the changes are vital.

It is also important to pay careful attention to their feelings and allow them to express themselves about all the changes they are experiencing.

That is why the New York State Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse, in conjunction with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), the National Association of Realtors® and the U.S. Department of Justice developed these tips for parents to practice with their children to help ensure a safe and happy new home for them.

**NEW YORK STATE
MISSING &
EXPLOITED
CHILDREN
CLEARINGHOUSE**



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE
INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:**

**NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
4 Tower Place
Albany, NY 12203**

1-800-FIND-KID or (518) 457-6326

**Missing child photographs and biographical
information and additional child safety information
can be viewed on our website.**

<http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us>

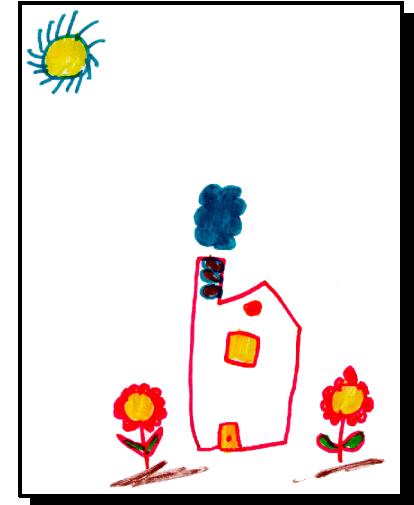
Contributions made to the NYS MECC Fund made reproduction of this brochure possible. Contributions can be forwarded directly to the fund at the address listed above. Also, the NYS Tax Law now allows individuals to donate to the MECC Fund when filing state income tax returns. Every penny of your contribution goes directly to support the work of the Clearinghouse and local efforts statewide.

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NEW NEIGHBORHOOD



SAFETY TIPS



**State of New York
George E. Pataki, Governor**