



## SAFETY TIPS

### **TAKE 25: KNOW THE RULES... FOR GOING TO AND FROM SCHOOL MORE SAFELY**

TAKE 25 minutes, and teach your children to...

- Always TAKE A FRIEND when walking, biking to and from school, or standing at the bus stop. Make sure your children know their bus number and which bus to ride.
- Say NO if anyone they don't know or a person who makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused offers a ride.
- Quickly get away and yell, "THIS PERSON IS NOT MY MOTHER/FATHER/GUARDIAN" if anyone tries to take them anywhere or is following them. If anyone tries to grab them, teach them to kick, scream, resist, and make a scene.
- NEVER LEAVE SCHOOL GROUNDS. Always check with the school office before leaving school. Parents and guardians should ensure current and accurate emergency contact information is on file. If you need to pick up your child make sure he or she is checked-out with the school before departure.
- NEVER take shortcuts or walk through alleys to get to or from school faster. Talk to your children about using a familiar route to and from school and keep track of extracurricular activities in which your children participate that may cause them to arrive later than usual. Instruct your children to call you with any change in plans and once they have arrived home.

These tips are adapted from **Know the Rules...For Going To and From School More Safely**. Alexandria, Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2001 and 2004. All rights reserved.

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