



Stranger Abduction Awareness:

Stranger Abductions also known as Non-Family Abductions are the coerced and unauthorized taking of a child by someone other than a family member. Stranger Abductions are rare in Canada. In 2021, there were 18 reported stranger child abductions in Canada.

If you believe your child has been abducted, contact police immediately. There is no period that you must wait in Canada before reporting your child missing.

It is good to have an open discussion about these scenarios to prepare them for situations such as a stranger abduction so that they know what they can do to prevent it from happening.

- Teach your children to trust their instincts and that they always have the right to say no. Make sure they know to tell a safe adult about that situation.
- Teach your children not to go anywhere with anyone without getting your permission. Always ask where they are going when they are leaving.
- Identify safe people and places that your child can approach if they need help
- Practise roll play for certain scenarios so that your child knows what to do in certain situations– example: What can you do if someone grabs you on the street? Tell them to yell very loudly and make a scene yelling “I don’t know this person: or “This is not my mom or dad.” making it very clear that the person is trying to take them, while trying to escape.
- Create a safety password with your child for pick ups - only adults picking them up will know the password. If an individual does not know the password, kids do not go with that person. It is important to ensure the parent does not tell any adult this password.
- Teach your children that adults should ask adults for help and not kids. They should never approach a vehicle even if the person driving calls them over – example: asking for directions.
- Teach your children to never take gifts from someone unless you provide them with permission
- If children are not being picked up or dropped off when they go out, ask them to check in once they arrive at their destination, and ask them to check in before they leave to come home so that you know when to expect them.
- If possible, have your child travel to and from school and other places with other children (also known as the buddy system)



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