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educate your children about school safety

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Baltimore County Police are reminding parents/guardians and children about back-to-school safety. Officers routinely trained in child safety and missing children investigations. With the start of the new school year, they are sharing this information with parents.

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Although the Police Department educates children in school on stranger danger, learning about community helpers, and several other child safety topics, parents can also help. The following tips are just a few suggestions:

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1. Be aware of putting your child's name on anything that is readily visible. This might allow an abductor to get on a "first name" basis with your child and develop a sense of trust.

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2. Walk the route to and from school with your children, pointing out safe places to go if they are being followed or need help.

3. Talk to your children about strangers approaching them and some of the ploys they might use. Stress to them that adults shouldn't need a child's help to find a puppy or get directions; they should ask another adult for that information.

4. Teach your children that it is okay to say NO-tell them to trust their instincts.

5. Remind your children to never give the impression they are home alone if strangers telephone or come to the door. Never open the door for a stranger, and teach them about dialing 911.

Wait For School Buses

The Baltimore County Police Department is reminding all drivers to stop when the lights on school buses are flashing. It's the law!

Maryland law states that vehicles must come to a complete stop on **BOTH** sides of the street if there is no physical divider or barrier. Drivers may not pass the bus until all lights have ceased flashing. Drivers who pass school buses while the lights are flashing will be fined \$555 and issued a 3-point penalty on their record. Drivers who stop but then proceed while the lights are flashing will be fined \$555 and a 2-point penalty will be charges.

Children are not always aware of their surroundings and assume that drivers will stop for them. Youngsters also dart into the road without looking first for traffic. Allow room for the frequent stops that happen during the morning pick up and the afternoon drop off.

Maryland's future is in its children... so let's protect them.