

Be A Safety Kid



Personal Safety for Children with Charlie Check-First

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A program from the
ARIZONA CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION
a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

www.safetykids.org
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“Charlie Check-First” Philosophy

Most of the crimes against children are committed by someone the child knows!
The concept of “Stranger Danger” is ineffective!!

Who do you consider to be a *stranger* to your child? A neighbor your child sees frequently but does not know well? The school bus driver? A mom of one of the kids at school?

It is best NOT to teach your child about “strangers.” Instead, teach them to judge the entire situation and make smart choices.

Children are not always able to accurately discern a safe person or a safe situation, so they need to think and act carefully in order to remain safe.

One sure way to do this is to follow a simple safety slogan: **Check First**. They should **Check First** with the adult who is in charge of them at the time, and avoid the possibility of making the wrong decision.

“Check First before you go anywhere with anyone (for any reason at any time).”

The concept of checking first is a procedure that takes place naturally in many different ways. However, it is imperative that children be **instructed** to specifically use this technique in their daily lives. Children need to constantly make decisions: many are insignificant, yet others may be potentially harmful. The **Check First** technique is a valuable step in the process of learning how to make safe decisions. It will help keep them safe if they are ever in a situation of possible harm.

If you cannot check, the answer is NO!

There are many lures that are used to convince children to do something. Lures of a lost pet, friendliness, emergency, need for assistance, quick money, and authority are a few of the main ones. The **Check First** procedure is *effective* against these lures.

- ✓ **Check First** before you take candy, food, toys, etc., from anyone.
- ✓ **Check First** before you accept bribes or offers of quick money (for unloading a truck, modeling, running errands, etc.).
- ✓ **Check First** before you get in a car or go with anyone, even someone you think you know.

The beauty of this concept is that it is simple, yet powerful, and easily applies to so many aspects of a child’s life!

If there is a time when the **Check First** method is not feasible, children need to evaluate the entire situation and rely upon their *gut* feeling. They need to *Think, Judge, and Act* wisely. However, in most situations, the **Check First** rule is the best safety tip to follow.

This safety technique works! Charlie Check-First helps children remember this very basic and very essential safety concept.

Be a Safety Kid!

Basic Teaching Procedure

- Decide which topics you plan to teach for your session and put the corresponding symbol cards in the poster pocket.
- Display the poster. Discuss the story behind the Safety Kid on the poster.
- Remove a symbol card and discuss that topic.

Steps to Become a Safety Kid

Judge, Think, Act

- ✓ Look at the whole situation.
- ✓ Think carefully and evaluate everything.
- ✓ Follow the Safety Kids' rules.

Safety Poster Teaching Procedure

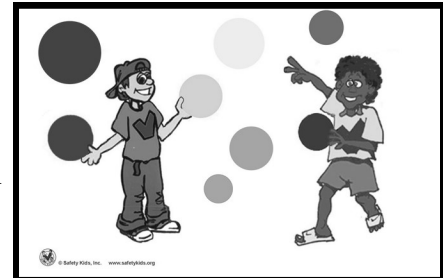
Introduce the poster and lessons in the following way:

- **These kids are Safety Kids and they love bubbles—all colors and all sizes of bubbles.**
- **But their favorite bubbles are ones with special pictures on them. What is special to YOU that you would like to see painted on a bubble?**

Get some answers.

- **I have some of their special bubbles in my poster pocket. The ones in here are much more valuable and important than anything we have named so far. Let's see what is in here. Have a student remove the Charlie Check-First bubble symbol card from the poster pocket.**
- ◆ **This is a symbol. A symbol can help you remember something. A stop sign reminds you to stop. The sign on a public restroom lets you know if it is for a girl or boy. Symbols can help us.**
- ◆ **What shape is this character? (a check mark) He reminds us to *Check First* before we do things.**
- ◆ **This symbol is more valuable than any others you can imagine!**

Go on to discuss the lesson. Make sure to end on a positive note of encouragement about how most of the people in the world are kind, good, and helpful!





Reinforcement Activities

The activities at the end of each topic are designed to reinforce the concepts of the lesson. It is most beneficial to do activities periodically, so that the safety tips are reinforced throughout the year.

Children have the capacity to learn in different ways. What works best for one child may not be effective for another. Therefore, these activities address Gardner's "Multiple Intelligence Theory."

The reinforcement activities are categorized in the following manner:



Musical/rhythmic



Visual/Spatial



Body/Kinesthetic



Other:
 Intrapersonal
 Interpersonal
 Logical/Mathematical
 Verbal/Linguistic

The activities are geared for a variety of age groups so that you can select or adapt them to meet the mental maturity of your students.



Evaluation: Pre/Post test

The instructor reads the questions aloud. Children put an X on the face that shows their answer. 😊= Yes 😐= Not Sure ☹= No

Give this test to the children before and after the lesson to see how much they learned. Children can easily “figure out” which answer they think is “correct”, even if it is not what they would really do in a situation. Do not be discouraged if there are not great changes in the answers. They still need these lessons!

1. Your next door neighbor offers you some ice cream. Do you need to check first with your parent before you take the ice cream?	1. 😊 😐 ☹
2. Should you ride your bike alone?	2. 😊 😐 ☹
3. If you lose your parent or buddy in the store should you look for him or her?	3. 😊 😐 ☹
4. If an adult wants you to do something or go somewhere do you always need to do it?	4. 😊 😐 ☹
5. If you are home and Mom is sleeping, or if a parent isn't there, is it OK to open the door if you know the person standing there?	5. 😊 😐 ☹
6. Do you know your phone number?	6. 😊 😐 ☹
7. You are on the street and a car stops near you and the driver starts to talk to you. Should you stand there and listen?	7. 😊 😐 ☹
8. If someone says something to make you sad, is it OK to say something mean back to the person?	8. 😊 😐 ☹