

# 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](http://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

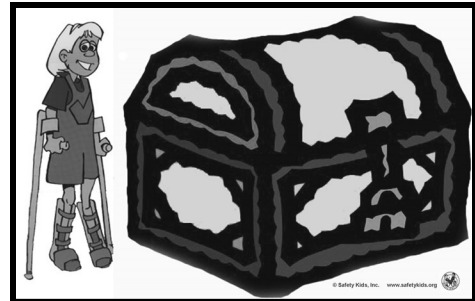
### Judge, Think, Act

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

## Safety Poster

*Introduce the poster and lessons in the following way:*

- ◆ **This girl is a Safety Kid. She just found a treasure chest. If you found the chest, what would you like to find in it?**
- ◆ **She did not find video games or money or candy. This chest is filled with something more valuable than any of those ideas. Let's see what is in here. Have a student remove the Charlie Check-First symbol card from the poster packet.**
- ◆ **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 all the gold in a treasure chest.**



*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!*

**Be a Safety Kid!**



## 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 box that shows their answer. 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. If a parent of one of your friends offers to take you home from school, do you need to check first with another adult before you go? | 1. | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Not Sure</b> | <b>No</b> |
| 2. If you cannot check with an adult before you go somewhere, should you go?  | 2. | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Not Sure</b> | <b>No</b> |
| 3. Do you know what a Safety Person is?   | 3. | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Not Sure</b> | <b>No</b> |
| 4. Can you go in a car with a Safety Person?  | 4. | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Not Sure</b> | <b>No</b> |
| 5. Can a buddy (friend) help you if you get hurt or lost?   | 5. | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Not Sure</b> | <b>No</b> |
| 6. If you get separated from your parent in a store should you go and look for him or her?  | 6. | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Not Sure</b> | <b>No</b> |
| 7. If you are “wise with you eyes” does that mean that you need to pay attention only to people you do not know?                        | 7. | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Not Sure</b> | <b>No</b> |
| 8. If you are going home to an empty house and you find the door open or unlocked, should you go in?                                    | 8. | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Not Sure</b> | <b>No</b> |
| If you are home alone and the phone rings should you let it ring and ring?  | 8. | <b>Yes</b> | <b>Not Sure</b> | <b>No</b> |

9. If you are home alone and the phone rings, should you tell the person that your mom is busy right now? **9.**  **Yes**  **Not Sure**  **No**
10. If you find a gun, is it OK to pick it up to see if it is a toy? **10.**  **Yes**  **Not Sure**  **No**
11. If you find a gun, should you take it to an adult? **11.**  **Yes**  **Not Sure**  **No**
12. Should you always do what an adult tells you to do? **12.**  **Yes**  **Not Sure**  **No**
13. Somebody wants you to do something or else he or she won't be your friend. Should you do it? **13.**  **Yes**  **Not Sure**  **No**
14. Is it OK for you to take some medicine that your mom uses for a headache? **14.**  **Yes**  **Not Sure**  **No**
15. If someone says something to hurt your feelings, is it OK to say something mean back to the person? **15.**  **Yes**  **Not Sure**  **No**
16. If someone who always picks on you is standing near the swings, is it best to tell that person to move so that you can swing? **16.**  **Yes**  **Not Sure**  **No**
17. You like to run and play ball, but a new student in your class does not; she only likes to read. Should you ignore her and leave her by herself because of that? **17.**  **Yes**  **Not Sure**  **No**
18. Someone dares you to do something and it sounds like fun, even though it is not right. Should you do it? **18.**  **Yes**  **Not Sure**  **No**