

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.

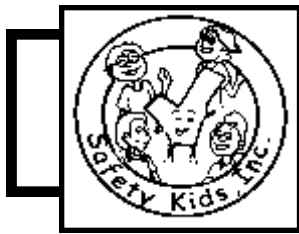
Safety Poster

Introduce the poster and lessons in the following way:

- ◆ **This boy is a Safety Kid and he going on a hike.**
- ◆ **He has his check list of supplies and his backpack is all ready to go. What do you think is in here? What would YOU take on a hike?**
- ◆ **He packed things that are more valuable than water or food or a map or sunscreen! 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* before we do things.**
- ◆ **This symbol is much better for your health and safety than any other hiking supply you can imagine!**



Go on to discuss the lesson. Make sure to end on a positive note of encouragement about how



Reinforcement Activities

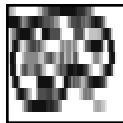
The activities at the end of each topic are designed to reinforce the concepts of the lesson. It is most beneficial to do activities periodically, so that the safety tips are reinforced throughout the year.

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

Put an X on the box that shows how you feel about the question or statement.

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!

You are right in front of a store and someone asks you to help unload a box from his truck to take into the store to return. It's not heavy, but he could sure use the help. He'll even pay you \$20 to help him. Is it OK to do this since he is going right into the store?

1. Is it OK to help the person right away? yes not sure no
2. Do you need to check first with the adult who is in charge of you at the time? yes not sure no
3. If there is no one around to check with, is it OK to help the person? yes not sure no

Someone dressed like a firefighter comes up to you and says that your house is on fire. He or she needs to take you there right away. This is a person with a uniform and authority.

4. Is it OK to go with the person right away? yes not sure no
5. If there is no one around to check with, should you go? yes not sure no

You are home alone and it is raining. Someone knocks at the door and says that his or her car broke down and needs to call for a tow truck. He also wants to come inside to get out of the rain.

6. Is it OK to open the door? yes not sure no
7. Do you need to check first with a parent or Safety Person? yes not sure no
8. If the phone is not working or if you can't reach a Safety Person, should you open the door? yes not sure no

How harmful to your health are the following behaviors for kids your age?
(Check one answer for each.)

9. Taking someone else's medication not harmful a little harmful very harmful
10. Drinking alcohol not harmful a little harmful very harmful
11. Smoking cigarettes not harmful a little harmful very harmful
12. Taking illegal drugs not harmful a little harmful very harmful

For each one of the following questions, check one answer.

13. If someone you really want as a friend tells you to do something you don't want to do, would you walk away? yes not sure no
14. Are guns useful for solving problems with friends and family? yes not sure no
15. Is it OK to point a gun (toy or real, loaded or unloaded) at someone? yes not sure no
16. If a bully dares you to do something you don't want to do, would you say *NO*? yes not sure no
17. If a bully tells you to do something you don't want to do, should you tell an adult? yes not sure no
18. If someone you know touches your body in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable or creepy, should you just ignore it? yes not sure no
19. Is it OK for someone your age to order things you want to buy on the Internet? yes not sure no
20. When you have a problem (or a conflict) with someone, is it OK to tell him or her about it? yes not sure no
21. When you are mad at someone, it is a good idea to act and do something about it immediately. yes not sure no
22. There are 3 basic steps to follow in order to solve a problem. yes not sure no