

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!



Reinforcement Activities

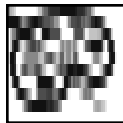
The activities at the end of each topic are designed to reinforce the concepts of the lesson. It is most beneficial to do activities periodically, so that the safety tips are reinforced throughout the year.

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 walking home from school. As you pass one of the houses, the woman comes out and asks you for help. She says that she can't carry all of her shopping bags into the house. She would like you to get them out of her van and take them into her house.

1. If she says that she knows your parents, is it OK to help 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, do you help? yes not sure no

Someone dressed like a police officer comes up to you and says that your friend has been arrested for shoplifting and your friend needs you to say that it is not true. The officer wants to take you to the police station. This is a person with a uniform and authority.

4. Should you 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 someone knocks at the door and says that he or she needs to come inside to check the phone line. You can see through the window that this person is dressed in a uniform and is driving a truck that belongs to your phone company.

6. Is it OK to open the door right away? yes not sure no
7. Do you need to check first with a parent or Safety Person? yes not sure no
8. Is there a safe way to help this person? 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. Smoking cigarettes not harmful a little harmful very harmful

Check one answer for each one of the following questions.

11. It is always bad to have a conflict or disagreement with someone. yes not sure no
12. There are only two good ways to get control of your anger. yes not sure no
13. If someone you really look up to tells you to do something that you know is wrong, would you say *No*? yes not sure no
14. If a close friend tells you to do something you don't want to do, should you tell an adult? yes not sure no
15. Are guns helpful in solving problems (such as stopping a fight)? yes not sure no
16. If a gun is not loaded, is it OK to point it at someone? yes not sure no
17. Is it OK to just hold a gun that you find and not shoot it? yes not sure no
18. If a bully tries to force you to do something you know is illegal, should you tell an adult? yes not sure no
19. If all of your friends are doing something that you really do not want to do, should you do it anyway? yes not sure no
20. Is it OK to meet in person someone you *met* on the Internet? yes not sure no
21. Is it OK to give others on the Internet your name, address, and information about yourself? yes not sure no
22. Should you keep it a secret if someone touches the personal parts of your body? yes not sure no