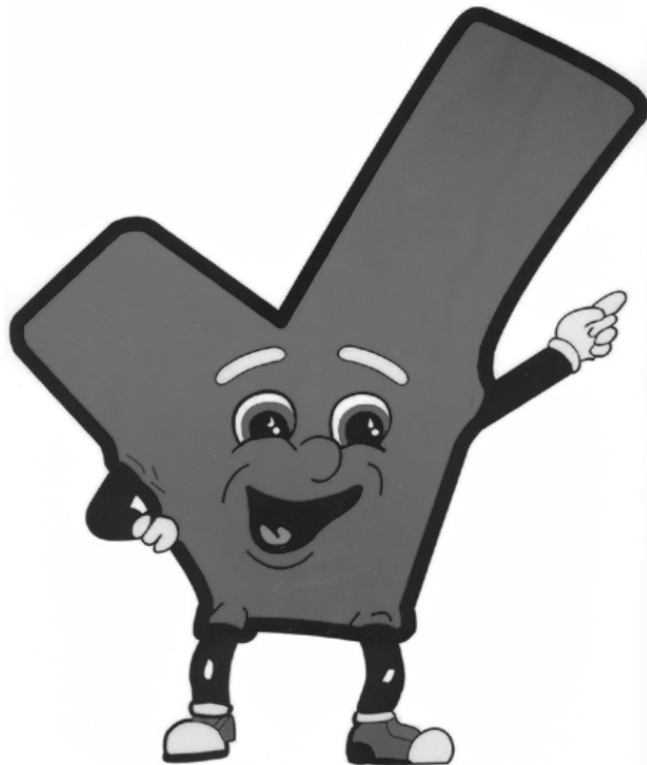


Check First



GRADE 1 CURRICULUM

- ★ **The Check First concept is the most important element in this entire program. Make sure you spend quality time on these lessons!**
- ★ Use Reinforcement Activities periodically throughout the year to strengthen their grasp on these safety techniques.

Materials Needed for Lessons

- Charlie Check-First poster
- *Bubbles* poster
- Charlie Check-First symbol card (and any other topics you plan to cover)
- *Safety Kids Songs* (optional)
- Old bag with candy bar
- Gift-wrapped box or bag with rotten apple
- Letter to the Parents/Guardian (Appendix)

Objectives for Students

- State the safety slogan: “**Check First** before you go anywhere with anyone.”
- Name three people they can check with to make sure it is OK.
- Give two examples of times they should **Check First**.
- Recite the second part of the slogan: “If you cannot check, the answer is NO!”
- State a safe response to the lure of a pet.
- State a safe response to the lure of friendliness.
- State a safe response to the lure of an emergency.
- State a safe response to the lure of authority.
- State a safe response to the lure of assistance.
- State a safe response to the lure of bribes.

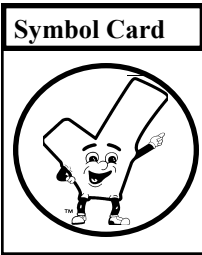
Review of Introduction

Decide which topics you plan to teach for your session and put those corresponding symbol cards inside the poster pocket before you begin. Always start with the Check First concept!

Using the Bubbles poster, introduce the lesson as described in the Introduction under Safety Poster Teaching Procedure.

As you introduce a topic, a student (or teacher) removes and displays the symbol card from inside the pocket.

What do you think of when you see a picture of Mickey Mouse? I have a picture on this bubble that will remind you of special things.

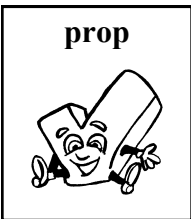


Have a student remove the bubble card of Charlie Check-First from the poster pack.

Introduce Charlie Check First. Point out his check shape and how it serves as a reminder for the safety tip to Check First.

THE RULE

He has an important rule for you to remember. Charlie Check-First wants you to “Check First before you go anywhere with anyone.”



Have children repeat this statement *several times*. Alter it by whispering, chanting, yelling, etc. Draw a check mark in the air when you say “Check” (use index finger to draw a mark down) “First” (use index finger to continue drawing the mark back up—✓). Or hold up thumb and index finger and curl other 3 fingers down into palm. This makes a check.

Who can you check with before you go anywhere or with anyone? (your mom, dad, babysitter, the adult who is in charge of you at the time)

If you cannot check with anyone, then the answer is NO! You may not go! Stress this part of the rule!

Have children say “The answer is NO!” and use hand motions to emphasize the word no. Cross your hands at the wrist, palms down, and pull them apart emphatically when you say NO.

Use may also want to use American Sign Language—extend thumb, index finger, and middle finger. Last two fingers are curled down into palm. As you say NO, snap the fingers down on the thumb and hold. Repetition of both parts of the rule is extremely helpful.

THE NEED TO CHECK

Are you allowed to leave the classroom any time you want?

Discuss. (If they did not check with the teacher, the teacher might be worried about them. They must also Check First at home before going to a friend’s house or other places, because their parents will worry if they can not find them. Checking First applies to neighbors, friends’ parents, parents’ co-workers, and *everyone*!)

Repeat the rule numerous times with the students:

“Check First before you go anywhere with anyone.”

☆ *As you discuss various lures, create scenarios that are difficult! i.e. a sweet grandpa-type or mother of a friend vs. a mean-looking guy with dirty clothes or someone unknown to the child. Combine lures to make them more tempting.*

Lure of a Lost Pet (or other animals)

*Discuss the lure of a pet, as it is very common and effective! Stress that they need to **Check First** even for something as simple as looking in the bushes.*

How many of you like puppies? How about kittens? Let's pretend you are at the playground and someone (it doesn't matter if you think you know this person or if you have never seen this person before) comes up to you and says:

“Can you please help me? My puppy just ran into those bushes, and he won't come when I call him. But he loves little kids. So if you come with me into those bushes, I know that he'll come out to play with you. Please?”

What should you do?

Lure of Friendliness

What do you do if you are walking home from school or from the bus stop and it starts to rain? You are just getting over being really sick and you don't want to get sick again and stay home in bed. Your friend's mom drives up and asks if you would like a ride home. What should you do?

*(The correct response is to **Check First**.) Explain that even if it is someone you know, you still need to **Check First**.*

Just politely tell your friend's mom that your parents are expecting you to walk home from the bus stop or from school. If you accept a ride and then your dad also decides to pick you up, he would get worried. Unless your parent told you ahead of time that it was OK to get a ride from her, you need to continue walking home. You can get home quickly enough!

Change the scenario to “a neighbor” or “someone you know”. Make the students really think about what to do.

Lure of an Emergency or Authority

Be sure to create scenarios of only an emergency and only authority, as well as the one below that combines both.. A uniform does not automatically mean a child should listen to the adult! A non-reader cannot always differentiate between an officer, a mechanic, or anyone else in uniform. Even if a child can read the words on a badge or patch, it is still best to Check First. Law enforcement personnel agree with this approach! It is better to be safe than to be tricked by an impersonator.

☆ Remind children that it is fine to go to an officer for help, but if anyone comes to them to offer help or to take them somewhere, they need to Check First.

We know that a police officer is always your friend and will help you whenever you need help. You can always go to an officer or call one on the phone if you need help. But what should you do in the following case? You are coming home from school and someone dressed like a police officer (or a paramedic or a nurse) is near your house and says: “Your mom has been in an accident. She’s OK, but she didn’t want you to be alone. So come with me and I’ll take you to the hospital to see her.”

(The response should be Check First.)

If you tell a police officer that you need to check with another adult first, he or she will be so proud of you and impressed with you for practicing your safety rules. Remember, if you ever need help you can go to a police officer. But if someone who looks like an officer comes to you when you don’t need help, then you need to Check First.

Lure of Bribes

Bribes can include candy, puppies, money, video games, and other tangible items that might interest or intrigue a child. They can also include : an adventure (such as a ride on a motorcycle), “time” spent with the person, getting a photo taken, or other experiences.

Ask the students what they would like to receive if they could have anything they wanted and create scenarios based on their responses.

Lure of Assistance

Children love to help others. It is important for them to know that adults can get help from other adults. Create other scenarios in addition to the one below.

You have been in your next door neighbor's house several times before. You are in the back yard and she asks you to come over and help her get something from underneath her table. She is too big to crawl under there and you are just the right size. She will even give you some cookies when you are done. What should you do?

(Even though she is a neighbor and a friend, you still need to Check First. Your mom may wonder where you are and get worried if she cannot find you. There is NO reason to automatically assume that she is trying to lure or trick you! However, it is good to practice the safety rule of checking first when an adult wants help from you.)

Closure

Discuss some of the additional scenarios in the Appendix.

Whenever you do something, there is usually a result. It might be a good result or it might not be so good.

For example:

- 1. If you get enough sleep, you will have energy and feel good the next day.**
- 2. If you touch a hot stove, the result will be that you get burned.**

You need to make smart decisions. Should I go to bed on time? Should I touch the stove? Should I take a ride in the car with someone? Should I go to my friend's house without asking my parent?

A smart decision will keep you safe. Remembering to Check First is a smart decision! Discuss.

Stop and think carefully so that you will make good decisions and stay safe. Remember to Check First!

Hold up two items: a small, pretty gift bag with a rotten apple inside, and also a dirty crumpled bag that has a candy bar inside.



Do not tell them what is inside each one. Ask the students which they would rather have if you were to give one away.

Open the present and show the rotten apple inside. Then open the old bag and show them the candy. Explain that people are like this, too—you cannot tell what is in the inside by looking at the outside.

Check First

Grade 1

Some people look really good on the outside, but inside their heart and mind they may be more rotten than this apple. Others may not look great on the outside, but inside they are as sweet as this candy.

Most of the people in the world are good and kind and helpful! But, since we can not tell what a person is truly like on the inside, we should always use our safety tips with every one every day!

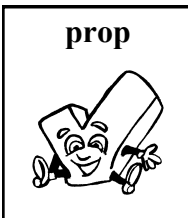
Who can tell us Charlie's rule?

“Check First before you go anywhere with anyone.”

If you cannot check with anyone, then the answer is NO! You may not go!

Let individuals say the rule and then have the class repeat it together.

(Children who say the rule properly can get a reward or prize)



Select someone to say the rule and then put the bubble card back in the poster pocket.

Remember, you can be a Safety Kid if you follow Charlie's rule!

Use the Safety Kids Songs to reinforce concepts.

Choose one or more of the Reinforcement Activities on the following pages.

Be a Safety Kid!



Reinforcement Activities



Songs

Sing songs using the *Safety Kids Music*. Words are included in the appendix. Children love the repetition of the words, and the songs help them remember the rules.

Materials needed: *Safety Kids Songs*



Puppet Show

Students color puppets, cut them out, and attach them to craft sticks or straws. Students can work in pairs or small groups to do a **Check First** puppet show based on what was discussed in the lesson.



Musical Art

Play the *Safety Kids Songs* as students begin to create a picture of a *safe scene* with Charlie and children. After a minute, stop the music. When the music stops, children get up and walk around. When you start to play the music again they must find a different paper to go to and add something to that drawing. Continue starting and stopping the music until children have had the opportunity to go to several drawings.

Materials needed: *Safety Kids Songs*, drawing paper, crayons or markers



Tissue Paper Charlie

Each child receives a picture of Charlie on card stock or other sturdy paper. Review Charlie's rule (written under his picture) with children. Give students some tissue paper squares and a small amount of glue. Have students crumble the paper into a loose ball. Dip the ball in the glue and attach it to Charlie. Continue until Charlie is filled in completely.

Materials needed: Charlie Check First master, 1-1/2" red, blue, yellow, and black tissue paper squares, glue, card stock or sturdy paper



Fancy Charlie

Use Charlie Check-First master to create a fancy Charlie with different art supplies (yarn, glitter, sponge painting, etc.). Have students cut him out and add a speech bubble stating Charlie's rule.

Materials needed: Charlie Check-First master, glitter, yarn, paint, sponges, tissue paper, construction paper.



Unique Charlie Doll

Students make a stuffed Charlie doll using wallpaper from sample books. After tracing two large check marks on wallpaper, students staple or hot glue (with teacher help) three sides of the paper. Have students stuff the doll with tissue or newspaper and close it. Add a face with markers or paint. Arms and legs may be added using construction paper or pipe cleaners.

Materials needed: wallpaper sample pages, check mark pattern, stapler or hot glue and gun, newspaper or tissue paper, construction paper, pipe cleaners.



Charlie Check-First Poster

Each student (or a pair of children) creates a Charlie Check-First poster that will be displayed throughout the classroom or school. It should illustrate the importance of making sure to “**Check First** before you go anywhere with anyone for any reason at any time.”

Materials needed: poster paper, markers, crayons, paints, etc.



Rule Review

Children stand in a circle. One child states the first word of the rule and bounces the ball to another student. That student then says the next word of the rule and bounces the ball to someone else. This continues as the entire rule is said. This may be repeated often to give everyone a chance. Use the rule: “**Check First** before you go anywhere with anyone for any reason at any time.”

Materials needed: large rubber ball, open space



Musical Rule Review

Play the *Safety Kids Songs* as students play musical chairs. There should be one chair less than the number of students. Stop the music. Children need to find a seat. The one who is left without a seat must say the **Check First** rule and then sit out. Remove another chair. Continue until there is only one person left.

Materials needed: *Safety Kids Songs*, chairs





Hot Charlie

Children sit in a circle and pass the Charlie Check-First ball around as *Safety Kids Songs* plays. The teacher stops the music. When it stops, the child holding the ball must say the rule: “**Check First** before you go anywhere with anyone” and then sits out. Play continues until only one child remains.



Materials needed: open space, *Safety Kids Songs*, approximately a 5” rubber bounce ball (with a marker, draw Charlie Check First on the ball) or bean bag



Rule Relay

Write the rule on index cards—one word on a card. You will need two sets of these cards. Make the sets different colors so that they can be separated. Divide the students into two teams. One at a time, each member of the team runs up to the pile of cards that are shuffled, takes a card, and runs back. The next person repeats this procedure. When all of the cards have been gathered, each member of the team holds his or her card and they all line up in order so that the teacher can read the rule. The first team to get lined up properly wins. Use the rule: “**Check First** before you go anywhere with anyone.” If you need more words, add: “for any reason at any time.”

Materials needed: index cards, open space



Adventures of Charlie Check-First

Give each child a Charlie Check-First coloring page, color it, then send the Charlie poster home with students. Students write about what he or she did the next day and how Charlie reminded or taught him or her to be safe. When all of the stories are turned in, compile a class book entitled “The Adventures of Charlie Check-First.”

Materials needed: Charlie Check-First master



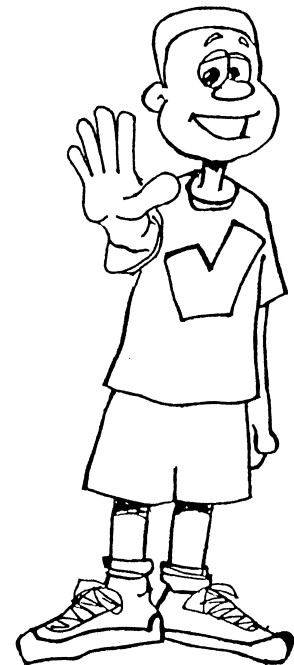
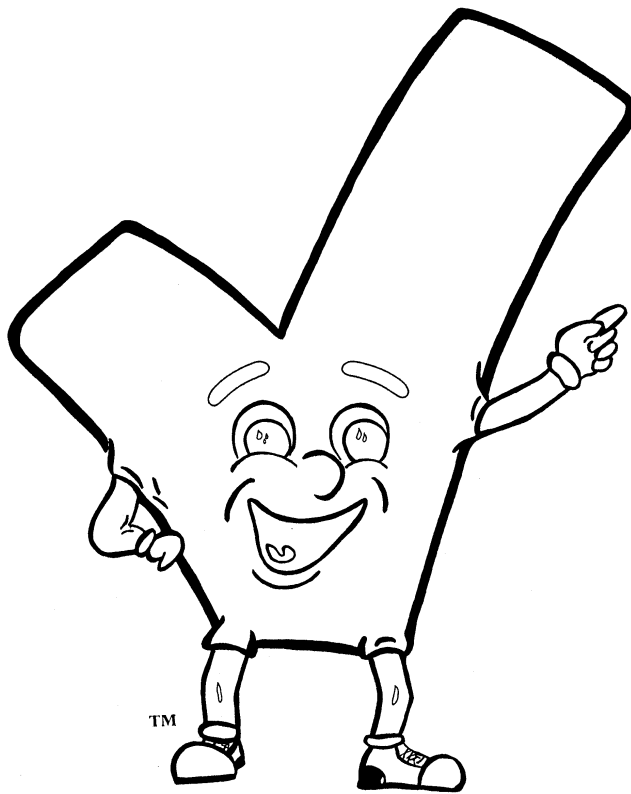
Superhero Story

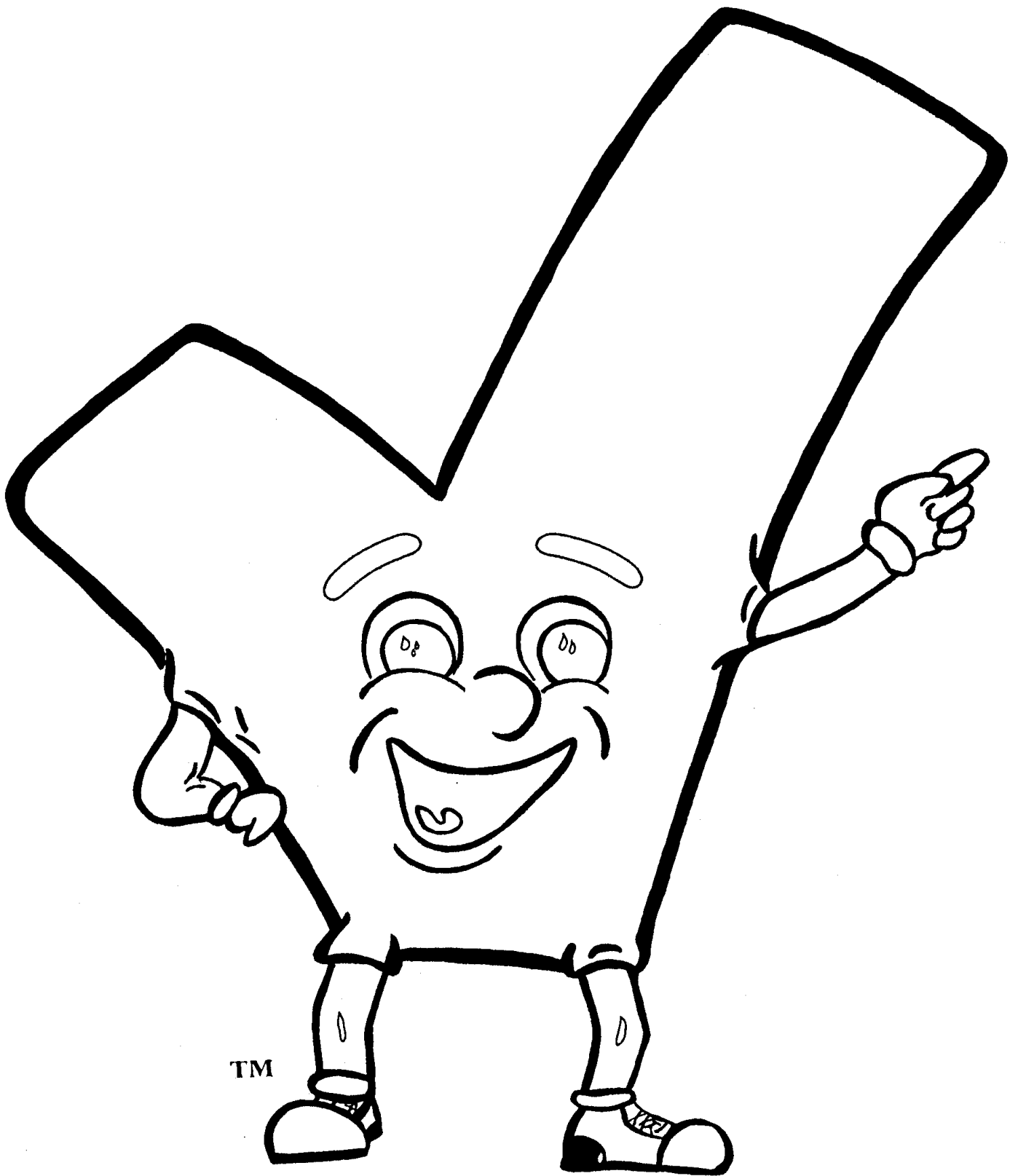
Students write a safety story using Charlie and share it with younger students. Write about Charlie as a superhero and the ways in which he helps children stay safe. Have children put it together and illustrate it as a book. You may set up the scenarios for the stories (Charlie comes to school, Charlie helps kids at a bus stop, whatever you want). List some key words on the board: for example, house, ride, permission, etc.

Materials needed: writing paper, pencils or pens, construction paper for cover

Check First

Stick Puppet Patterns (4 Safety Kids and Charlie)





Charlie Check-First says:
"Check First before you anywhere with anyone!"



Check First

Find the words from the word list and circle them. They may go across or down.



Word List

anyone

anywhere

check

emergency

friendly

lost pet

parent

police

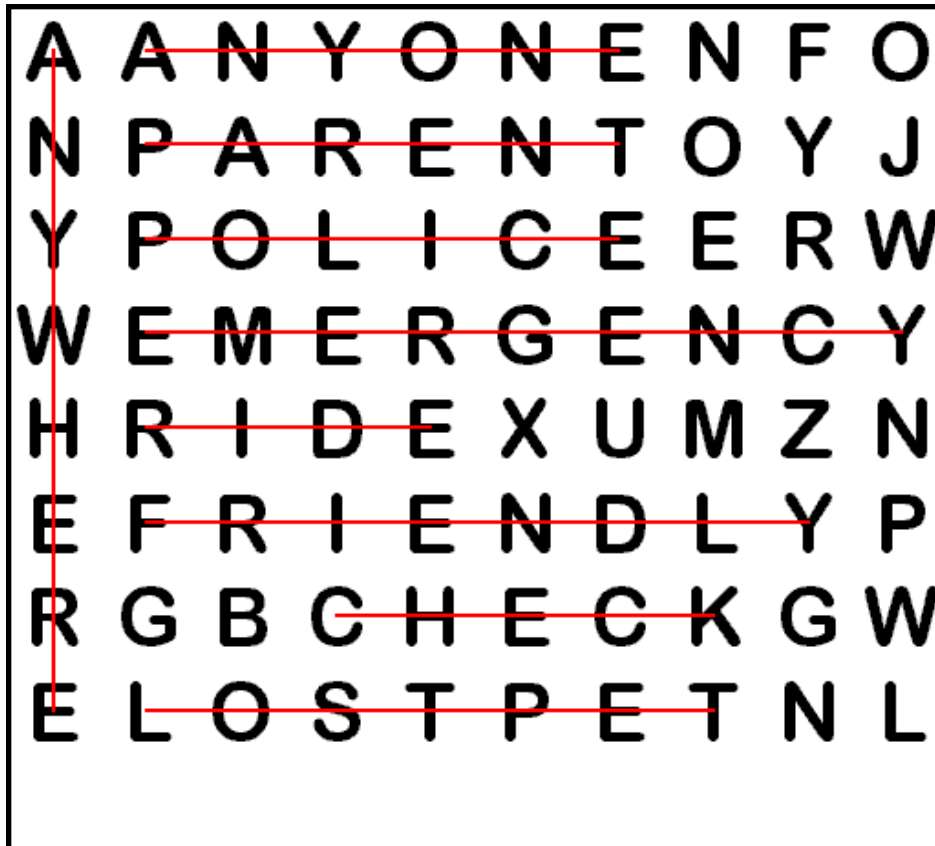
ride



Check First

Answers

Find the words from the word list and circle them. They may go across or down.



Word List

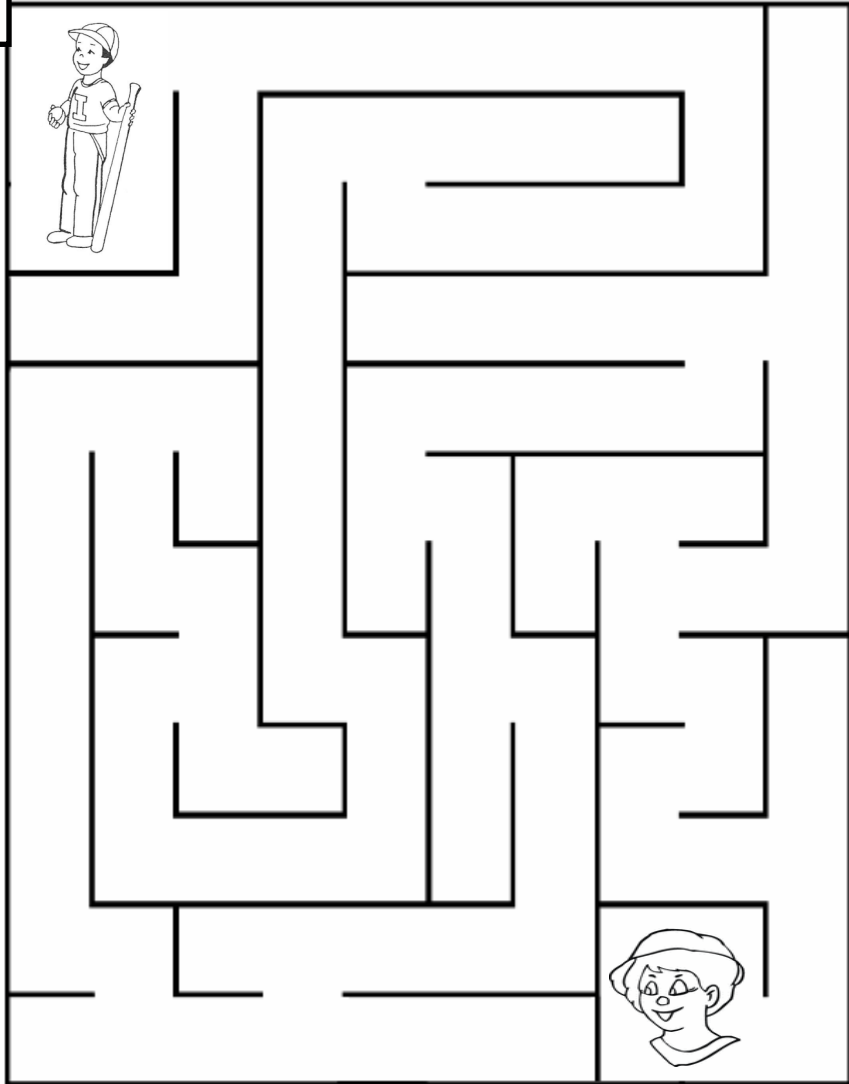
anyone
anywhere
check

emergency
friendly
lost pet

parent
police
ride



Help Sam find his mother in order to CHECK FIRST before going to play ball with a friend!



Safety Check Point #1: *Check First* before you go anywhere with anyone (for any reason at any time)! Check with the adult who is in charge of you at the time. If you cannot check, then the answer is **NO!**