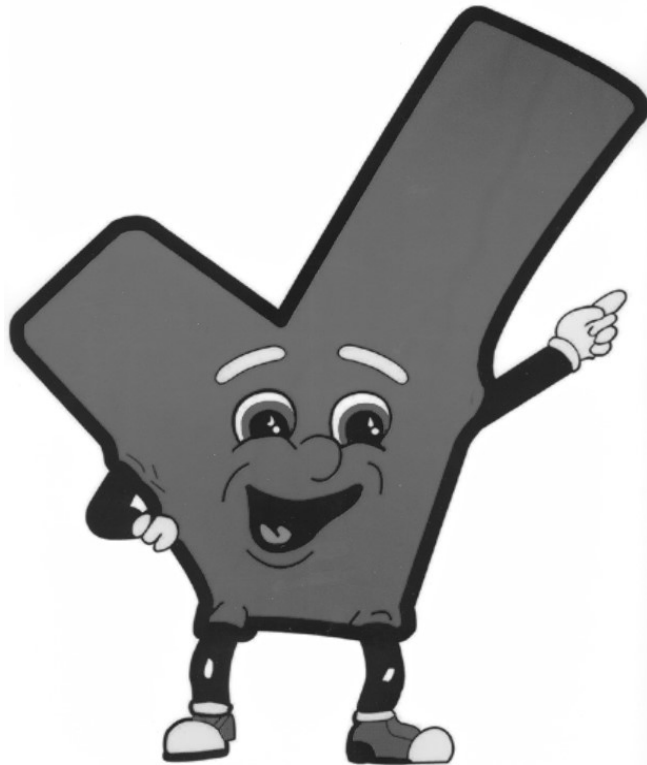


Check First



Bold Text: suggested words to say to teach lesson
Italics: suggested actions to take
(Parenthesis): background information or suggested answers

- ★ **The Check First concept is the most important element in this entire program. Make sure you spend quality time on these lessons!**
- ★ The only exception to the Check First rule is if it involves a Safety Person. If you do not plan to teach that lesson separately, include those basic points now.
- ★ Use Reinforcement Activities periodically throughout the year to strengthen their grasp on these safety techniques.

Materials Needed for Lesson

- Charlie Check-First poster
- *Treasure Chest* poster
- Charlie Check-First symbol card (and any other topics you plan to cover)
- *Safety Kids Songs* (optional)
- Two eggs (raw or hard boiled or one of each)
- 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.
- Explain the second part of the slogan: “If you cannot check, the answer is NO!”
- State a safe response to the lure of a lost pet.
- State a safe response to the lure of assistance.
- State a safe response to the lure of friendliness.
- State a safe response to the lure of an emergency and/or authority.
- State a safe response to the lure of bribes and/or easy money.
- State a safe response to the lure of assistance.

Basic Procedure

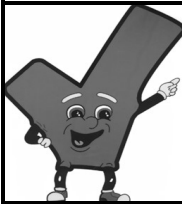
Decide which topics you plan to teach for your session and put those corresponding symbol cards inside the poster pocket before you begin.

Always start with a review of the Check First concept!

Using the Treasure Chest 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.

Lesson

Symbol Card



Have a student remove the symbol card of Charlie Check-First from the poster pocket. This card shows a symbol of Charlie Check-First. He has a very important rule he wants you to remember!

THE RULE

He wants you to “Check First before you go anywhere with anyone.”

Children repeat this statement several times. Vary it by saying it in whispers, snap fingers, shrug shoulders, chant, etc. Repetition is the key to remembering.

Who can you check with before you go?

(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!

Use hand motions to emphasize the NO. Cross your hands at the wrist, palms down, and pull them apart emphatically when you say NO. You can also use American Sign Language for NO: Hold up index and middle finger, bend other two fingers down to palm. Snap the first two fingers down on the thumb. NO! Allow time for discussion about this rule.

THE NEED TO CHECK

Are you allowed to leave the classroom any time you want? Do you walk across the street without looking for cars? Sometimes it is so easy and natural to Check First. Sometimes it is easy to forget to Check First.

Discuss examples of times to check and reasons for doing so.

(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.)

Discuss times that you do not really need to check with someone.

Repeat the rule numerous times with the students: “Check First before you go anywhere with anyone.”

The only exception is the Safety Person and we will talk about that soon.

(Make sure the children have a firm grasp on the concept of checking first before you introduce a Safety Person.)

There are 3 basic steps to follow to become a Safety Kid:

1. **Judge - Look at the whole situation.**
2. **Think - Think carefully and evaluate everything.**
3. **Act - Follow the Safety Kids' rules.**

Apply these steps as you discuss or role-play the following scenarios. Create more of your own and make sure that the situations are realistic and may be ones that children actually encounter or are tempting.

Use the following scenarios to discuss or role-play the major lures.

Lure of a Lost Pet (or other animals)

The lure of a lost pet must definitely be covered. It is a major lure, as it is usually effective! Discuss this example and others.

How many of you like puppies? How about kittens? Let's pretend that you are at the playground and someone (it doesn't matter if you think you know this person or not) comes up to you and says:

“Can you please help me? My little 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?

Discuss the need to Check First before going even into the bushes.

Lure of Bribes and/or Easy Money

You are walking home from school and a car slows down and stops near you. The driver asks you if you would like to earn some quick, easy money or maybe get a free puppy. All you have to do is give a bag to the teenager down the street. It is a really simple task and you are going right by the teenager. It would be great to have some money or the puppy, especially when you do not have to do much. What should you do?

(First of all, you should immediately take 2 giant steps back away from the car. Then do NOT do what he asks. It might be something illegal or a trick to get you close to the car. Remember, adults do not need that kind of help. You can earn money in a safer way.)

Lure of Friendliness

Discuss examples of a lure of friendliness; how someone may try to befriend a child.

You are waiting for the school bus and a car pulls up and stops near you. The driver is someone you have seen at school and there are two kids in the car that you know. He says that the bus broke down and he is picking up the kids and taking them to school. What should you do?

(The answer is: Check First with a parent, Safety Person, or the adult in charge of you.)

Someone from the school would have probably called your house to explain the situation. You can get another ride to school later or your parent can give you the permission to go.

You are waiting for your dad to pick you up at the soccer field after practice. He is late and the other kids are starting to leave. A parent that you have seen there before offers you a ride home. What should you do?

(The best answer is to Check First with a parent or a Safety Person—see the next lesson for information on a Safety Person.)

There are a few things you can do. Ask the coach if he or she will stay with you while you wait for your dad. At your age, most coaches will automatically do that. You can also see if someone has a cell phone so that you can call home or call your Safety Person to check. Or ask that particular parent if he or she will wait with you. Your dad is probably on the way and would be worried if he got there and could not find you.

Let's imagine that you have worked for two weeks on a big project for class. It turned out great and you want to keep it for a long time. But as you are walking home it starts to rain. A neighbor, or maybe the mom of one of your friends drives by and offers you a ride. 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 neighbor that your parents are expecting you to walk home from the bus stop or from school. If you accepted the ride and then your mom also decided to pick you up, she would be worried when she couldn't find you on the street.

Lure of Emergency and/or Authority

Discuss examples of lures of emergency and/or authority. (An emergency situation does not always need to involve a person in a uniform.)

You know that a police officer is always your friend. A paramedic can be helpful to you, also. Discuss these professions if necessary.

They will help you whenever you need help. But what should you do in this situation? You are coming home from school and someone dressed like a police officer or paramedic or doctor comes to you and says that your mom has been in an accident and he wants to take you to the hospital to see her. Your mom said it was OK. (The correct response is to Check First!)

If you tell a police officer or other person in uniform that you need to check with another adult first, he or she will be proud of you and pleased with you for practicing your safety rules. You can always get help from a police officer. But if anyone comes to you when you did not ask for help, then you need to Check First.

Remember: if you cannot check, then you cannot go!

Lure of Assistance

Children love to help others. It is important for them to know that adults can get help from other adults.

What should you do if someone wants you to help him get a wallet or something that is stuck under the back seat of a car. He says he is too big to get to it. All you need to do is reach under and pull it out and he'll even reward you. (They need to tell the person that they cannot do that.)

You still need to Check First. Adults do not need help from children! They can get help from other adults.

What should you do if you are near a store or in your neighborhood and someone wants you to help carry some packages to a car or into a house? This person was shopping and cannot carry them all. The person may even offer to pay you.

(Tell him or her you need to Check First. It does not matter if you know the person or not.)

Closure

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

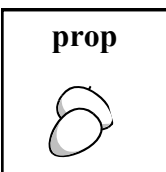
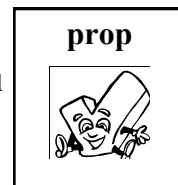
For example:

1. If you leave a bowl of ice cream on the table, the result will be that it **melts**. (not so good)
2. If you look for cars before you cross the street, the result will be that you do not get hit by a car. (good)

You need to make smart decisions. Should I leave the ice cream out? Should I look for cars before I cross the street? Should I take a ride in the car with someone? Should I try to help find a lost puppy?

A good decision will keep you safe. A poor decision might cause you to get hurt. You need to be careful and make good decisions. Remembering to **Check First** is a smart decision! *Discuss.*

Who can tell me Charlie's rule? *Let individuals say the rule and then have the class repeat it together.* **"Check First before you go anywhere with anyone!"**



Hold up two eggs. Ask the children if they can tell what they are just by looking. Are they so positive with their choice that they are willing to crack it on their head to find out? (Do NOT actually let them try! The point is they may make the wrong choice—the same as in choosing people.) You cannot tell what is on the inside by looking at the outside.

Explain that people are like this, too. (Some people look really nice on the outside, but they are mean inside their heart and mind. Others may not look great on the outside, but inside they are wonderful. You cannot tell just by looking.)

You cannot tell what is on the inside of a person just by looking at the outside. 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 everyone every day!

Select someone to put the symbol card back in the poster pocket. You can tell this girl/boy is a Safety Kid because she/he has a ✓ on her shirt! You can be one too, if you follow Charlie's rule!

Use the Safety Kids Songs to reinforce concepts.

Choose one or more of the Reinforcement Activities from 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.

Materials needed: puppet patterns, craft sticks or straws, tape, crayons



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



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” ball with Charlie Check-First drawn on the ball or bean bag



Adventures of Charlie Check-First

You may use the Charlie doll or Charlie poster. Send Charlie home with a different student each evening. That student writes about what he or she did and how Charlie reminded or taught him or her to be safe. An alternative is to give each child a Charlie Check-First coloring page, color it, take it home, and do the same activity. 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, Charlie poster



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



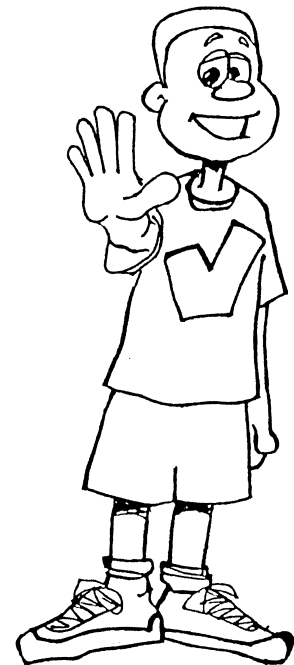
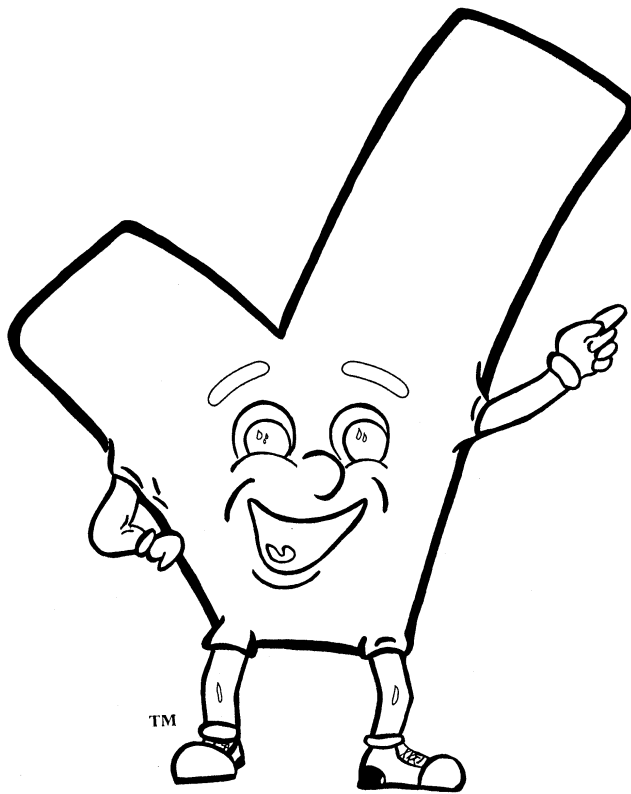
Musical Rule Review

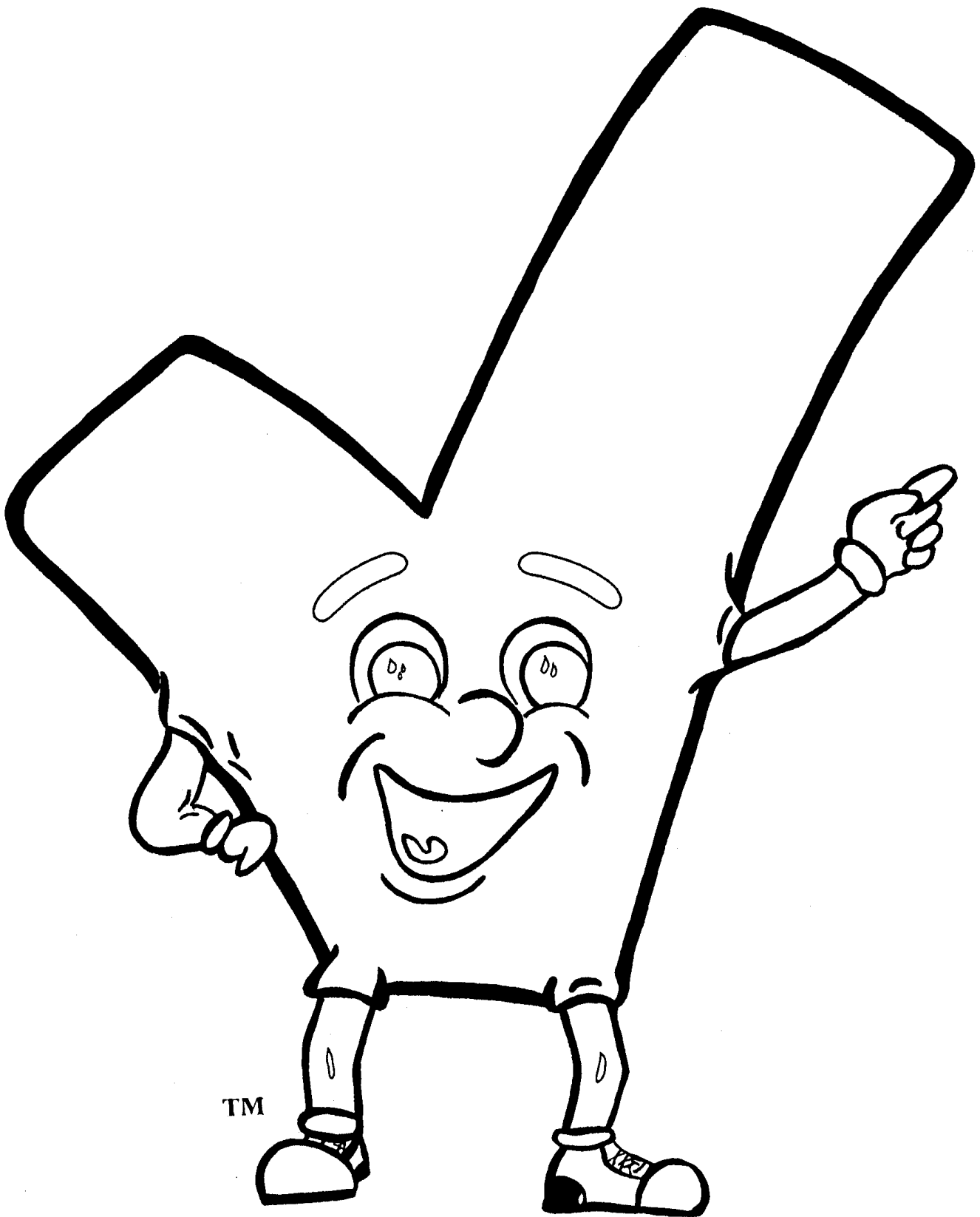
Play the *Safety Kids Songs* as students play musical chairs. There should be one chair less than the number of students. Stop the music. Children need to find a seat. The one who is left without a seat must say the **Check First** rule and then sit out. Remove another chair. Continue until there is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



Materials needed: *Safety Kids Songs*, chairs

Stick Puppet Patterns (4 Safety Kids and Charlie)





Charlie Check-First says:
"Check First before you go anywhere with



Check First

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



anyone
anywhere
check
emergency

friendly
know
lost pet
money

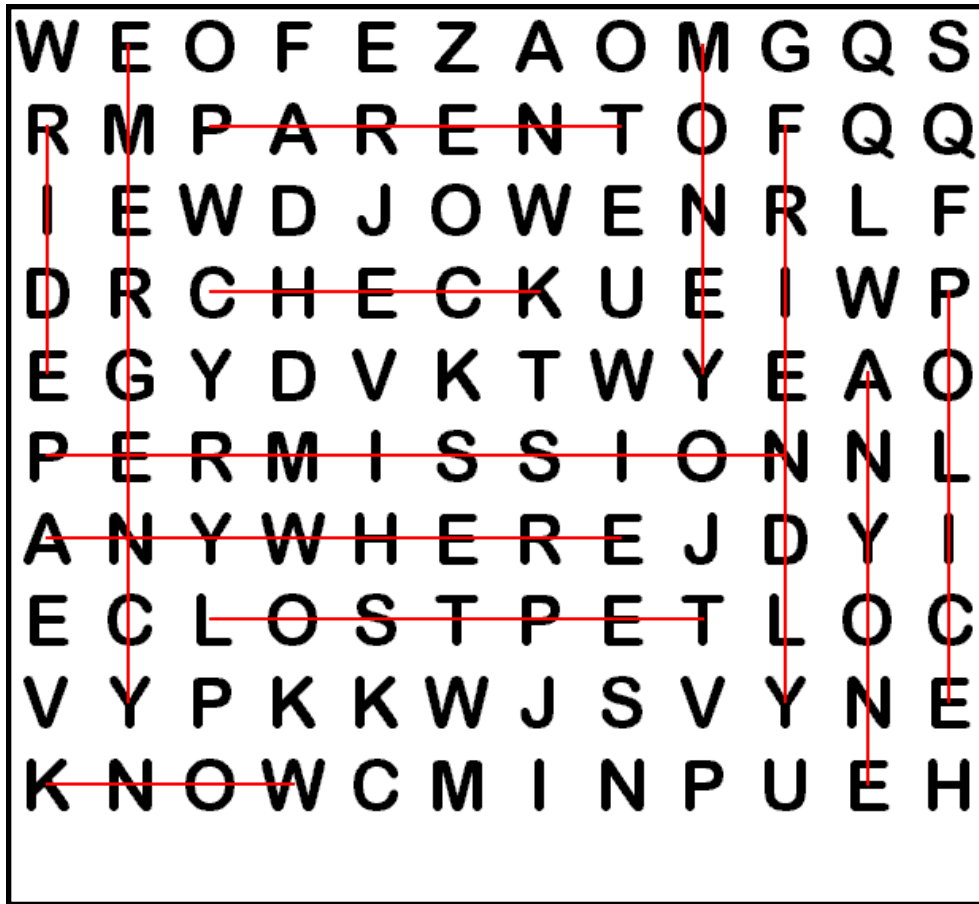
parent
permission
police
ride



Check First

Answers

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



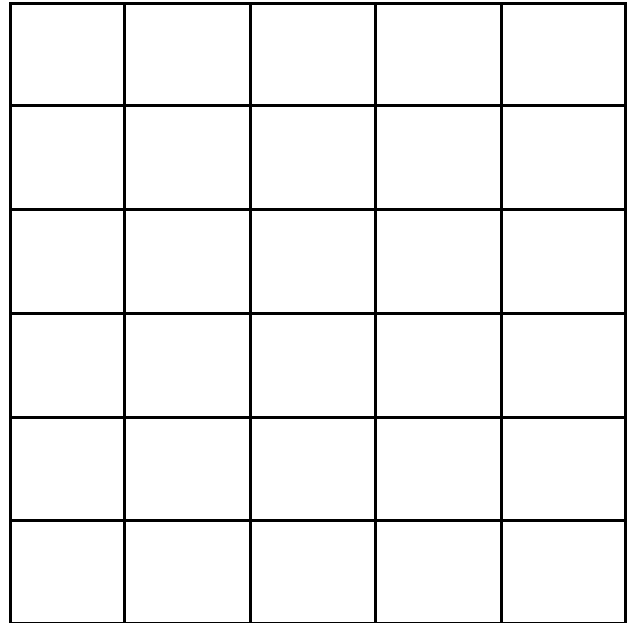
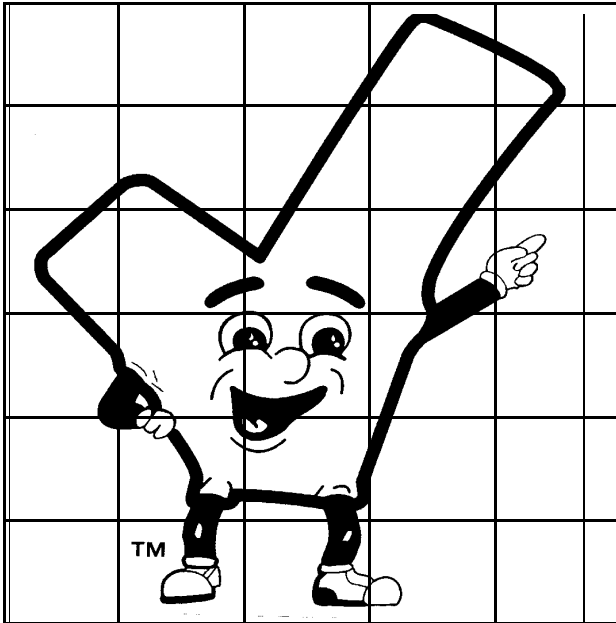
Word List

anyone	friendly	parent
anywhere	know	permission
check	lost pet	police
emergency	money	ride



Draw Charlie

Now you can draw Charlie Check-First! Use the empty boxes below to make your picture look just like the other one.



Hi! We're Safety Kids!

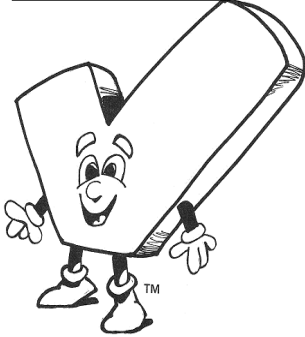


Coloring fun!





Check Count

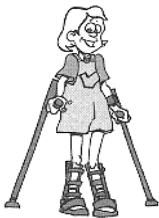
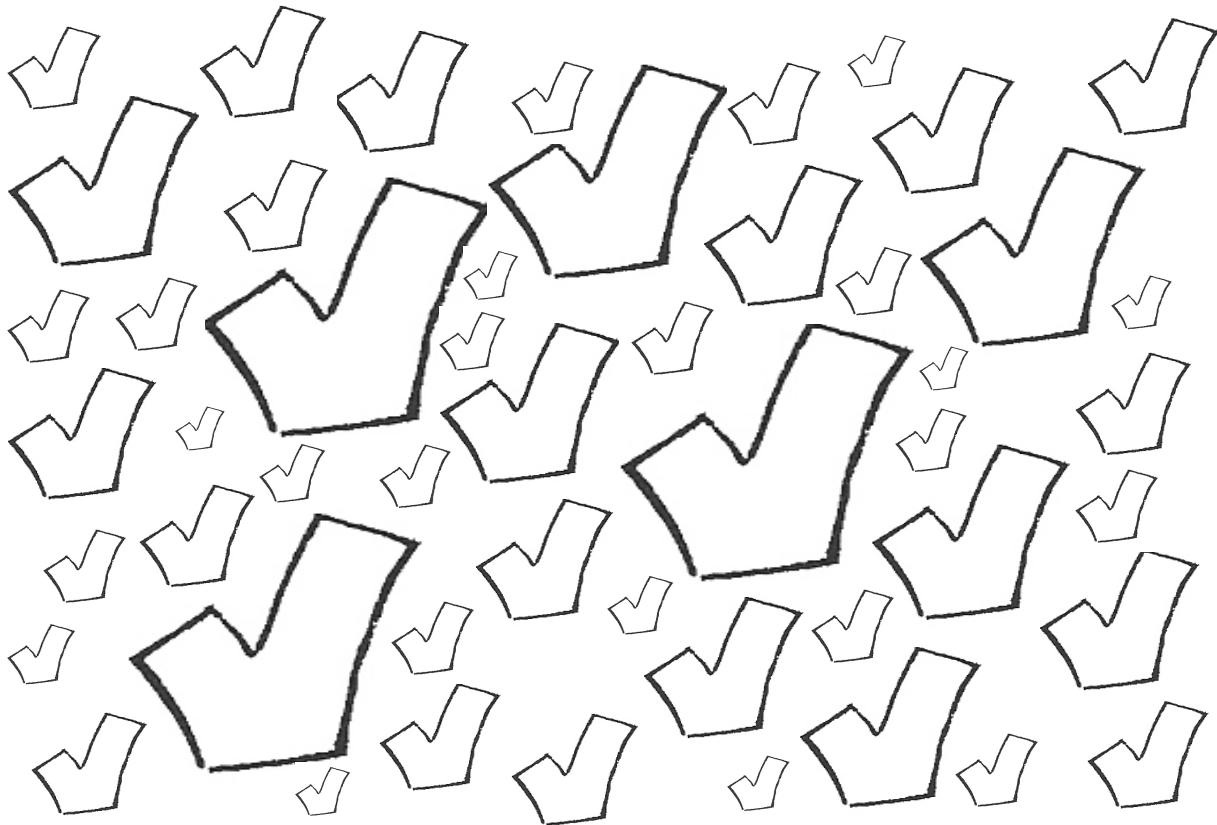


Charlie reminds you
to

Check First!



Help Charlie count the number of checkmarks he drew!



Charlie Check says: Adults can get help from other adults. You do not need to help anyone find a lost puppy, unload a truck, etc., unless you Check First!