

Before school begins...

Check student records at school.

- ★ Is your contact information correct?
- ★ Do they have your work and cell phone number?
- ★ Do you have alternate contacts in case you cannot be reached?
- ★ Are your student's medical records up-to-date, including allergies and current medications?

Discuss with your student the school's weapons policies.

- ★ Stress that no weapons can be brought onto school campus, including pocket-knives, sling shots, and BB guns.
- ★ Talk to them about what to do if they find a weapon. Under no circumstances should they touch the weapon. Find a responsible adult and tell them.

Before leaving home...

Identification

- ★ Ensure that your student has identification with them that includes emergency contact information such as work numbers and cell phone numbers.

Secret Password

- ★ Create a password that only your family members know. Anyone who picks up the child has to know the password. Remind them to never get in a stranger's car.

Information sharing

- ★ Discuss with students the importance of sharing information. Stress to them that if they hear students talking about being destructive or hurting someone, that it is OK to tell a trusted adult - parent, teacher, counselor, law enforcement officer, principal.

Violence Prevention...

Involve YOUR Student!

- ★ Talk it Out! Settle arguments with words, not fists or weapons. Learn how to manage your anger effectively.
- ★ Report rumors, threats, crimes or suspicious activities to teachers, principals, School Resource Officers or other adults.
- ★ Don't use illegal substances, and stay away from places and people associated with them.
- ★ Refuse to bring a weapon to school, refuse to carry a weapon for someone else, and refuse to keep silent about those who carry weapons.
- ★ Work with administrators to set up a way to anonymously report suspicious activities or rumors.

SAVE... encouraging and empowering students with positive life skills while engaging them in educational activities and opportunities to promote good citizenship.

Contact the school for a copy of their emergency policies. Review with your student what will happen in an emergency.

- ★ Where will students be located?
- ★ When and where will parents reunite with children?

Contact the school for a copy of their safe school plan.

- ★ Do they have a plan that has been practiced?
- ★ Does your school have a SAVE chapter? If not, contact National SAVE for a free start-up kit.
- ★ What measures are being taken to ensure that your child's safety is a school priority?
- ★ Do they have a visitor's policy? Is it enforced?

Safest Route

- ★ Plan with your student the safest route to walk or bike. Practice the route several times reminding them how to safely cross streets and what to do when they come to an intersection.

Clothing

- ★ If your student must walk or bike to or from school or stand at the bus stop be sure that they wear light clothing or clothing with reflective stripes.

Bus Stop

- ★ Discuss with your student the importance of walking directly to and from the bus stop. No horseplay.
- ★ Do not allow your student to be at bus stop alone. They should go with a parent or buddy.
- ★ Remind them not to talk to strangers.

- ★ Ask for a role in decision making about school rules, the discipline code and policies that affect you. Be actively involved in any school or community task forces dealing with the issue of school violence. Speak up and let others know how you feel about the issue.

- ★ Get involved in violence prevention activities - have poster contests against violence, hold violence and drug prevention rallies.
- ★ Help others settle disputes peacefully. Start or join a peer mediation program in your school.
- ★ Get involved and get your friends involved in community service projects and mentoring projects with younger kids.

Violence Prevention... Parents Get Involved!

- ★ Know where your kids are, what they are doing, and who they are with at all times.
- ★ Build a good relationship with your child through good communication. Encourage talk and be attentive. Talk about school daily.
- ★ Be familiar with school rules and regulations and support them. Discuss with your children what the school considers a weapon and what the rules are. In many states, parents can be held liable for their children's actions, including inappropriate use of firearms.
- ★ Communicate clearly on the violence issue. Explain that you don't accept and won't tolerate violent behavior. Teach children how to reduce their risk of being victims of crime.

Act as role models!

- ★ Settle your own conflicts peaceably and manage anger without violence. Help your children learn nonviolent ways to handle frustration, anger, and conflict.
- ★ Take an active role in your children's schools. Talk regularly with teachers and staff. Become involved in school activities.
- ★ Set clear limits on behaviors in advance. Discuss punishments and rewards in advance. Disciplining with framework and consistency helps teach self-discipline, a skill they can use for the rest of their lives.
- ★ Discourage name-calling, teasing and bullying. These behaviors often escalate into fist fights. The victim may see violence as the only way to stop it.

Produced in partnership by:

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Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)

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Youth Voices...
Grown-Up Choices!



More Info



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School Safety Tips

A Resource
for Parents

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