



PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

Listen... really listen to what your child tells you about friends, the neighborhood, worries, and fears. Thoughtful listening builds communication and trust, which are keys to helping your child grow up safely.

Talk with your children about drugs, violence and other problems. Make your family values clear and exhibit a good example.

Make sure you know your child's friends and their friends' parents. Check out the neighborhood with your child. Find out where he or she feels safe and unsafe. Work with neighbors to address problems such as unsafe "shortcuts," dangerous intersections, areas where shrubbery needs trimming back, lack of safe places to seek help.

Set up clear rules for play after school, on weekends and during "time off" in the summer or at holidays. Help your child review them regularly.

Urge kids to play in groups, which are far less susceptible to being approached by strangers.

Be a helpful adult. Let kids know they can tell you anything and you will listen caringly.