



[This page prints out on 3 sheets]

Your Child's Safety

Your child may need some help staying safe.

Read this page for tips on keeping your child safe.

Plan ahead

Have a communication plan ready in case there's an emergency:

- Make sure your child knows who to call and how in case of an emergency.
- Talk about how to contact an interpreter if your child needs one.
- Make sure your child carries a card with emergency numbers with him at all times.
- Make sure your child's school, coaches, and child care providers know how to reach you.
- Prepare an emergency kit with water, flashlights, hearing aid batteries, and other things your child may need.
- Make sure your home is safe inside and outside.
- Practice the plan with your family.
- Teach your child to be [independent](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/growingup/child/independence.jsp)
<<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/growingup/child/independence.jsp>>

Fire safety

- Use fire alarms in your home that flash lights and are sound activated.
- Check your alarms once a month or more to make sure they're working.
- Plan escape routes ahead of time. Talk about what to do in case of a fire.
- Think of ways to communicate to your child that there's a fire.

Water safety

- Ask your township for an interpreter for your child's swimming lessons.
- Make sure there's a way your child can communicate with the lifeguard on duty.
- Talk to your child about how hearing aids and cochlear implants won't work in the water.

Be street smart

Kids think that if they can see a car, the driver can see them. They also have trouble understanding how fast a car is going. Your child may not hear the sounds of cars coming towards her. Teach your child to be street smart:

- Stop at the curb and look in all directions before you cross the street.
- Cross at corners using traffic signals and crosswalks if you live in a city.
- Never walk into the street from behind a car, tree, or large object.
- Never run into a street without stopping, even for a ball or your dog!
- Walk or ride a bike facing traffic, so you can see cars coming towards you.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up.
- Pay attention to others and watch when they move out of the way.
- Carry a flashlight when it's dark.
- Wear bright clothing.
- Use reflective lights on your bike.



Sign safety

- Some parents of kids with hearing loss choose to have a sign put up on their street that says: "Caution Deaf Child" or "Deaf Children at Play." If drivers see this sign, they may slow down or be more alert.
- Other parents choose not to use these signs because they want to protect their child's privacy. They worry about what may happen if others find out their child is deaf.
- For more information on having a sign put up, contact your township.

Stay away from strangers

- Never leave your young child alone anywhere - not in a car, home, or public place.
- Make sure your child learns her address very early, and can tell people how to get in touch with you in an emergency.
- Teach your child how to make a collect phone call on the TTY or TDD, and to say or type, "I need help."
- Don't let your child wear clothing or other things with her name on it.
- Make sure your child knows to scream and run from anyone who is trying to grab or hurt her.
- Practice with a friend your child does not know. Ask your friend to grab your child or try to get her to go somewhere with him.
- Tell your child to always let you know right away if a stranger asks her for help, gives her candy or gifts, or scares her in any way.

- Teach your child to use mirrors and windows on buildings to watch her reflection and see who's behind her.
- Read more [Child Safety Tips](http://www.childsearch.org/safety.html) < <http://www.childsearch.org/safety.html> >

If you think your child is missing:

- Try to stay calm.
- Ask your neighbors, family, and friends if anyone knows where your child is or if they've seen her.
- Check in places where your child may not be able to hear you well.
- Call your city's emergency hotline and file a missing persons report. Find out what the TTY/TDD number is for 9-1-1 from your local police station.
- Read these tips from [Team H.O.P.E.](http://www.teamhope.org/familydo.html) < <http://www.teamhope.org/familydo.html> >

Internet safety

- Never give out personal information, like your child's address, picture, password, or phone number.
- Tell your child to let you know right away if she gets any strange messages, emails, or sees something she doesn't like.
- Be on the lookout for emails that have different addresses than the ones she usually sends mail to.
- Make sure she knows never to promise to meet with someone she met online.

More Internet Safety Information on the Internet

- [Online Safety Tips for kids](http://www.safekids.com/kidsrules.htm) (<http://www.safekids.com/kidsrules.htm>)
- [Parent's Guide to Internet Saftey](http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm) (<http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm>)
- [Saftey Tips and Resources for Parents](http://www.parentsonline.gov.uk/2003/parents/safety/index.html) (<http://www.parentsonline.gov.uk/2003/parents/safety/index.html>)

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You can find this page online at:

<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/growingup/safety.jsp>