You want to protect your child from everything. But you can’t always be there to ensure safety. What you can do is prepare your child to cope in an emergency by teaching the basics of safety.

Children are safer in school than in any other place except their homes. Today, schools are taking extra measures to make sure children are safe. And children who feel secure and safe are ready to focus on school and learning.

You can do your part by teaching your child some common-sense safety rules. Being ready to handle an emergency will give your child self-confidence.

- Review family emergency procedures with your child. Make sure she knows how and when to use 911.
- Discuss the safety procedures published by your school. Emphasize the importance of following directions in the event of a school emergency.
- If you have questions, be sure to talk to a teacher or the school principal.

Make sure your child knows important personal information, such as his name, address and phone number.

- Help your child learn the phone number or numbers where you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- Make sure your child knows and feels comfortable with a neighbor who is an emergency contact.
- Expect your child to walk and play with a friend—never alone.
- Know your child’s friends and keep a list of their phone numbers.

Tell your child never to talk to or accept help from strangers.

- Go over the safest routes to and from school, stores, and friends’ houses with your child.
- Tell your child to tell a teacher if something is frightening at school.

The best child safety efforts involve parents and schools working together.