



WILMETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

School Resource Officer Pavely Safety Tip

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Another school year begins and with that, we as parents need to reinforce with our children safety tips for walking to and from school. Young children do not have the same frame of reference for safety as adults do. They may not “look before they leap,” which is why it is so important for families to supervise young children and practice safety skills with their older children to make certain they really know and understand the safety information you provide.

Tips for Parents or Guardians

1. Teach your children to use the school walking and biking routes (Maps posted on your school website).
2. Never take shortcuts or go into isolated areas.
3. Instruct your children to always walk with a friend and be aware of their surroundings.
4. When crossing streets, alleys, and driveways, teach your children to try and make eye contact with the driver before crossing in front or behind them. DO NOT be distracted by their mobile phones.
5. If anyone bothers your children or makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused, teach your children to trust their feelings and immediately get away from that person and tell you or a trusted adult*.
6. Remember adults should never ask children for directions or help...so instruct your children to never approach a vehicle or accept money or gifts unless you told them it was OK to do for each specific instance.
7. Teach your children they DO NOT have to be polite, when approached by someone they do not know and they need to get out of the situation as quickly and safely as possible.
8. Instruct your children to leave items and clothing with their name on it at home. If anyone were to call their name, teach them not to be fooled or confused.
9. Instruct your children to never leave school with anyone until they have checked with you or a trusted adult.

*Trusted adult- someone you decide and teach your children they can go to for help or assistance, when you are not available i.e. teacher, principal, aunt, uncle, parent of best friend, etc...

So make your walk or bike to/from school with your children a “teachable moment” and a chance to put their safety skills to the test while enhancing their overall well being. Let’s all have a safe and enjoyable school year!