

Be A Safety Kid



Personal Safety for Children with **Charlie Check-First**

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A program from the
ARIZONA CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION
a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

www.safetykids.org
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“Charlie Check-First” Philosophy

Most of the crimes against children are committed by someone the child knows!
The concept of “Stranger Danger” is ineffective!!

Who do you consider to be a *stranger* to your child? A neighbor your child sees frequently but does not know well? The school bus driver? A mom of one of the kids at school?

It is best NOT to teach your child about “strangers.” Instead, teach them to judge the entire situation and make smart choices.

Children are not always able to accurately discern a safe person or a safe situation, so they need to think and act carefully in order to remain safe.

One sure way to do this is to follow a simple safety slogan: **Check First**. They should **Check First** with the adult who is in charge of them at the time, and avoid the possibility of making the wrong decision.

**“Check First before you anywhere with anyone
(for any reason at any time).”**

The concept of checking first is a procedure that takes place naturally in many different ways. However, it is imperative that children be **instructed** to specifically use this technique in their daily lives. Children need to constantly make decisions: many are insignificant, yet others may be potentially harmful. The **Check First** technique is a valuable step in the process of learning how to make safe decisions. It will help keep them safe if they are ever in a situation of possible harm.

If you cannot check, the answer is NO!

There are many lures that are used to convince children to do something. Lures of a lost pet, friendliness, emergency, need for assistance, quick money, and authority are a few of the main ones. The **Check First** procedure is *effective* against these lures.

- ✓ **Check First** before you take candy, food, toys, etc., from anyone.
- ✓ **Check First** before you accept bribes or offers of quick money (for unloading a truck, modeling, running errands, etc.).
- ✓ **Check First** before you get in a car or go with anyone, even someone you think you know.

The beauty of this concept is that it is simple, yet powerful, and easily applies to so many aspects of a child’s life!

If there is a time when the **Check First** method is not feasible, children need to evaluate the entire situation and rely upon their *gut* feeling. They need to *Think, Judge, and Act* wisely. However, in most situations, the **Check First** rule is the best safety tip to follow.

This safety technique works! Charlie Check-First helps children remember this very basic and very essential safety concept.

Be a Safety Kid!

Basic Teaching Procedure

- Decide which topics you plan to teach for your session and put the corresponding symbol cards in the poster pocket.
- Display the poster. Discuss the story behind the Safety Kid on the poster.
- Remove a symbol card and discuss that topic.

Steps to Become a Safety Kid

Judge, Think, Act

- ✓ Look at the whole situation.
- ✓ Think carefully and evaluate everything.
- ✓ Follow the Safety Kids' rules.

Safety Poster

Introduce the poster and lessons in the following way:

- ◆ **This boy is a Safety Kid and he has a pizza. Who likes pizza? What kind of toppings do you like on your pizza?**
- ◆ **Inside this pocket are a lot of toppings that are much better for you than pepperoni or cheese!**
- ◆ **Let's see what is in here.** *Have a student remove the Charlie Check-First symbol card from the poster packet.*
- ◆ **This is a symbol. A symbol can help you remember something. A stop sign reminds you to stop. The sign on a public restroom lets you know if it is for a girl or boy. Symbols can help us.**
- ◆ **What shape is this character? (a check mark) He reminds us to *Check* before we do things.**
- ◆ **This symbol is much better for your health and safety than any other topping you can imagine!**



Go on to discuss the lesson. Make sure to end on a positive note of encouragement about how most of the people in the world are kind, good, and helpful!

Be a Safety Kid!



Reinforcement Activities

The activities at the end of each topic are designed to reinforce the concepts of the lesson. It is most beneficial to do activities periodically, so that the safety tips are reinforced throughout the year.

Children have the capacity to learn in different ways. What works best for one child may not be effective for another. Therefore, these activities address Gardner's "Multiple Intelligence Theory."

The reinforcement activities are categorized in the following manner:



Musical/rhythmic



Visual/Spatial



Body/Kinesthetic



Other:
Intrapersonal
Interpersonal
Logical/Mathematical
Verbal/Linguistic

The activities are geared for a variety of age groups so that you can select or adapt them to meet the mental maturity of your students.



Evaluation: Pre/Post test

The instructor reads the questions aloud. Children put an X on the box that shows their answer. Children can easily “figure out” which answer they think is “correct”, even if it is not what they would really do in a situation. Do not be discouraged if there are not great changes in the answers. They still need these lessons!

Someone dressed like a nurse or doctor comes up to you and says: “Your mom (or anyone you care about) has been in a terrible accident, and I need to take you with me to the hospital. Your mom wants you there.” This is a person with a uniform and authority.

- | | | | | |
|---|----|------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. If he or she shows you a badge or name tag, is it OK to go with the person right away? | 1. | Yes | Not Sure | No |
| 2. If you cannot check with anyone else, should you go to the hospital? | 2. | Yes | Not Sure | No |
| 3. If you are not sure what to do, is it OK to find an adult who looks kind and ask that person what to do? | 3. | Yes | Not Sure | No |

For each of the following questions, choose one answer and put an X on that box.

- | | | | | |
|---|----|------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 4. Are your parent’s friends automatically Safety Persons? | 4. | Yes | Not Sure | No |
| 5. Someone comes to pick you up and wants to use your code word. Is it OK for that person to whisper it in your ear so that you can go with him or her? | 5. | Yes | Not Sure | No |
| 6. Is it OK to go with a security guard if you get lost in a store? | 6. | Yes | Not Sure | No |
| 7. If a car stops near you on the street, is it OK to stay where you are and give directions? | 7. | Yes | Not Sure | No |
| 8. If you are home alone, should you have your friends come over? | 8. | Yes | Not Sure | No |

9. Someone is knocking at the door while you are home alone and he or she sees you inside. Must you now answer the door?

9.	Yes	Not Sure	No
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10. If you are home alone, should you answer the phone and take a message?

10.	Yes	Not Sure	No
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11. If a dare is silly and harmless, should you take the dare even if you really do not want to do it?

11.	Yes	Not Sure	No
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12. Someone tells you to steal candy or else he or she will hurt you. Should you do it so that you do not get hurt, and then go and tell someone?

12.	Yes	Not Sure	No
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13. If you find a gun, is it OK to touch it if it is not loaded?

13.	Yes	Not Sure	No
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14. Do you know five pieces of information to give an operator in an emergency?

14.	Yes	Not Sure	No
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15. Will illegal drugs and alcohol make you sick only if you use them a lot?

15.	Yes	Not Sure	No
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16. If an adult does something to make you feel uncomfortable and wants you to keep it a secret, should you tell someone?

16.	Yes	Not Sure	No
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17. If someone says something to hurt your feelings, is it OK to say something mean back to the person?

17.	Yes	Not Sure	No
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18. Should you always do everything an adult tells you to do?

18.	Yes	Not Sure	No
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