

## Tips For Parents



Most of us know that the Secret Service protects the President of the United States. But what many people don't know is that the Service also provides investigative support for cases involving missing or exploited children. The Crime Bill of 1994 and PROTECT Act of 2003 mandated the Secret Service to provide forensic and investigative assistance in support of any investigation involving missing or exploited children [18 USC 3056(f)]. It is under this mandate that the Secret Service provides these free community outreach programs called "Operation Safe Kids" and "The Childhood Smart Program".

**Know** the routes your children take, especially to and from school. Practice walking the routes with them so you can point out places they should avoid or where they can go for help.

**Talk** to your child's school or day care facility about its pickup policy. Be clear that no one should pick up your child without your permission. Ask to be contacted immediately if someone else tries to pick up your child.

**Use** role-playing scenarios to help children learn how to recognize and respond to risky situations. For example, have children practice yelling, kicking, pulling away or otherwise attracting attention when grabbed or approached by someone they do not know.

**Teach** your child about the methods would-be abductors use. Have your child practice responding to the tricks by saying "no," walking away and telling a trusted adult immediately.

**Prepare** children to act when you are not with them. They should know their full names, home addresses and telephone numbers, and how to dial 911.

**Keep** a recent photo of your child and descriptive details such as age, height and weight.

# United States Secret Service Child Safety Outreach Programs



U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Secret Service



When a child is reported missing to law enforcement, federal law requires that child be entered into the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC). According to the FBI, in 2018 there were 424,066 NCIC entries for missing children. Similarly, in 2017, the total number of missing children entries into NCIC was 464,324. The seriousness of these statistics cannot be taken lightly. Because of this, The United States Secret Service Forensic Services Division established the following child safety outreach programs as a means of bringing safety awareness to the public. Ensuring this safety is a responsibility shared broadly among parents, teachers, Government, and communities.

## The Childhood Smart Program

The Childhood Smart Program was created in partnership with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) to help educate parents and children about online and personal safety. The child safety experts at NCMEC create educational resources for parents and K-12 students. The Secret Service helps to disseminate these resources to schools and communities across the nation. We are proud to partner with NCMEC to bring KidSmartz and NetSmartz presentations to schools and communities nationwide. NCMEC's KidSmartz program educates families about preventing abduction and empowers children in grades K-5 to practice safer behaviors.

NCMEC's NetSmartz program educates parents and children in grades K-12 about online safety and the responsible use of the internet. Their presentations for younger children, tweens, teens and parents/guardians cover issues like cyberbullying, inappropriate content, privacy and sexting. These presentations engage audiences using discussion, videos and practical tips for staying safer online.



## Operation Safe Kids

Operation Safe Kids is a program that offers iLivescan Child IDi cards that consolidate the child's biographical and biometric data into a single document that parents can provide to law enforcement in the event that a child is reported missing, lost or abducted. The Operation Safe Kids equipment can be brought to various locations and a record would be produced for each child on site that day for parents to keep in a safe place. No information about the children or their families will be recorded or maintained by the U.S. Secret Service or its employees, or shared with any other entity. A parental consent is required to be completed and returned in order for a child to participate in the event. Additionally, there is absolutely no requirement for an individual child to participate.



## National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) Resource Briefing

The National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) is a component of the Secret Service's Protective Intelligence and Assessment Division (PID). NTAC staff have produced research and guidance on the prevention of targeted violence affecting K-12 schools. In July 2018, NTAC released *Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence*, which is available on the Secret Service public website. Select Secret Service employees have been trained and are available to provide informational briefings on the resources available from the National Threat Assessment Center. These briefings are

intended for school personnel only (e.g., teachers, school administrators, school resource officers) and will include an overview of NTAC's research and guidance related to school safety, highlighting key findings from NTAC's analysis of past school attacks and an overview of the recommendations in NTAC's Enhancing School Safety guide.

**These community outreach programs can be requested by schools, scout troops, church groups, summer camps or any number of private or public entities. If you are interested in learning more about the United States Secret Service Child Safety Outreach programs, contact the Secret Service Forensic Services Division at 202-406-5926 or your local Secret Service field office.**

