

Dear CCA Families,

As summer approaches and our children spend more time outdoors, it is important for us to review safety procedures concerning strangers. The single most important thing to remember when teaching your children about stranger danger is to instill confidence, rather than fear. You want to equip your child with the knowledge and strategies they will need to protect themselves from strangers. Stranger danger lessons should be ongoing – adapt the conversation as your child grows as he/she is likely to encounter different types of situations.

Who are "strangers"?

Children need to understand the difference between “good” and “bad” strangers. Examples of “good” strangers may include police officers, security guards, store clerks, etc. Your child should know that there really are many more “good” people, than there are “bad.” A “bad” stranger is someone who tries to take them away, wants them to keep secrets or tells them lies.

"Stranger Danger", tips and strategies.

The following are important tips and strategies for children to protect themselves:

- Know your name, address, and phone number.
- Use the buddy system – avoid going anywhere alone.
- Trust your instincts – if you feel you are being followed or something is not right, seek help immediately.
- If a stranger approaches you, you do not have to speak to him or her. Never approach a stranger in a motor vehicle. Just keep walking. Do not accept candy or any other items from a stranger. Never walk off with a stranger no matter what he or she tells you.
- If someone is following you, try to remember the license plate of his or her vehicle and immediately tell a trusted adult.
- If a stranger grabs you, do everything you can to stop him or her from pulling you away or dragging you into his or her car. Drop to the ground, kick, hit, bite, and scream. Do whatever it takes to attract the attention of others who can help you. If someone is dragging you away, scream, "this is not my dad," or "this is not my mom."

Our CCA teachers have reviewed this information with your students and we will continue to talk about summer safety issues as the school year comes to a close. Please help us to keep your child safe by spending time discussing these issues as well. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 719-295-1623.

Lori Montanez – K-5 Principal

Crystal Gallegos – K-5 Student Support