

If Asked To Go and Your Parents Don't Know, **SHOUT NO!** If Asked To Share and Your Parents Aren't Aware, **SAY NO!**



“If Asked to Go and Your Parents Don't Know, SHOUT NO!” and “If Asked to Share and Your Parents Aren't Aware, SAY NO!” are two of the Seven Root Safety Strategies taught in the safety awareness program Kids in the Know. Children should always make sure that they have permission from a parent/guardian before going anywhere with anyone. Children should also receive permission from a parent/guardian before sharing photos or personal information with anyone.

Practicing the following scenarios with your children will help them feel more comfortable with safely responding to real life situations. The more these skills are rehearsed, the more likely they are to be used when needed. In the following activity, children or parent/guardians can read aloud the scenarios and then ask children to determine the safe response.

- 1. Alex has arranged to stay at his friend's house until 9:00 p.m. and his parents will then pick him up and bring him home. Alex decides he wants to leave early. He tries calling his parents, but there is no answer. Alex decides to leave and walk home anyway. He will explain it to his parents when he gets home. Alex is sure that they will understand.**

ANSWER: Alex should not change his plans without first arranging it with his parents. His parents always need to know where he is. If he did arrange with his parents to walk home, he should use the buddy system as there is safety in numbers, or make sure his parents know when he is leaving so they know when to expect him home.

- 2. Chris is playing a game online and starts chatting with a girl who says she goes to a nearby school. She asks Chris if he wants to meet up with her after school tomorrow and play soccer at a park in their neighbourhood. Chris was just going to go to Tyson's house after school, but thinks it would be fun if he and Tyson met up with her to play soccer instead. He knows he could still be home before 5pm when his parents are expecting him home.**

ANSWER: Chris needs to have permission from his parents before he makes arrangements to meet up with this girl he has met online. His parents would first need to speak to the girl's parents to make arrangements for a supervised meeting. It is important that parents are involved before meeting anyone offline to make sure the situation is safe.

- 3. Clara decides to go to a friend's house after school. No one will be at Clara's house until after 6:00 p.m. and she knows that she will be home before that time. Clara decides that there is no need to let anyone know where she is.**

ANSWER: Clara's guardians always need to know where she is in case of an emergency, or if they need to get in touch with her.

- 4. Rory is chatting on social media with a woman who says she works for a modelling agency. The woman says Rory is really pretty and asks her to send a picture of herself in a bathing suit. Rory really wants to become a model so she sent the woman a picture.**

ANSWER: A legitimate modelling agency would contact Rory's parents and not ask Rory to send pictures online. Always check with a parent before sharing photos or personal information online. It is also important for Rory to tell her parents/guardians about what happened.

- 5. After school Akira walks outside and it is raining. A person stops to ask Akira if she would like a ride home, she recognizes him from her neighbourhood and he says he is going past her house. Akira appreciates the ride as she is not sure how else she would get home in the pouring rain.**

ANSWER: Before going anywhere with anyone, Akira needs to get permission from her parents/guardians. It is important not to go with anyone, whether she has seen them before or not, without checking first with her parents/guardians.

- 6. Jesse is at baseball practice when his coach asks him to stay after practice once everyone leaves. He says that he will give Jesse a ride home. Something inside of Jesse is making him feel uncomfortable, but he stays because it is his coach asking and his coach is an adult. Jesse has always been told to do what adults say.**

ANSWER: Before changing plans, Jesse needs to get permission from his parents/guardians. He should also trust his instincts if he doesn't feel comfortable. Jesse should explain to his coach that he cannot stay because his parents don't know about it and they are expecting him home. Then Jesse should tell his parents/guardians what happened and how he felt when his coach singled him out by asking him to stay after the practice.