

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Ask "How was your day at school?" on a daily basis.
- Stay informed and attend all school meetings and conferences for parents.
- Remind your child that self-respect and respect towards others is essential.
- Parent involvement is key especially as children grow.
- Know what grades are given in all courses, at all times, and if your child has difficulty, ask what services the school can offer.
- Limit the use of the technology for your children and be careful with the use of the internet and social pages (Facebook, MySpace, Twitter).
- Be well acquainted with your children's friends.
- If you need help, don't wait for it to be offered... part of the responsibility as parents is to advocate for your children.
- As often as possible, tell your children how much you love them and remember their first education begins in the home.

The Oxnard Police Department offers a variety of crime prevention presentations. For more details contact Detective Crystal Walker at (805) 385-7668.



**OXNARD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
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## CHILD SAFETY



*Parents,  
Do your children know about strangers? Are you comfortable letting your children answer the telephone or front door if you are home or if they are home alone? Take a minute to go over the following safety tips with your children. They could prevent your child from becoming a victim of crime. It is important that you give them examples that they will understand. Use your home, neighborhood, and school area as settings.*

## WHO IS A STRANGER?

A stranger is someone that your child does not know. Parents and guardians need to determine who is and isn't a stranger. Explain that strangers come in many shapes and sizes. They can wear nice clothes, different clothes or even a uniform. The uniform issue is confusing to children, so take time to explain that yes, the mailman is a stranger even though he comes to the door almost every day. This does not imply that people who wear uniforms will harm children, but children need to know that if they do not know the person in uniform - that person is a stranger.



## TELL YOUR CHILD TO FOLLOW THESE RULES ABOUT STRANGERS

- Never take anything like candy, ice cream or money from a stranger.
- Never take a ride from a stranger.
- If a stranger asks for directions, stay away. Strangers shouldn't ask kids for help.
- Never give your name or address to a stranger.
- If a stranger in a car bothers you, turn and run in the opposite direction.
- Never talk to strangers.
- Never tell anyone that you are home alone if you answer the telephone or door. Tell them that mom or dad is busy. Take a message.
- If a stranger tries to follow you on foot or tries to grab you, **RUN AWAY, SCREAM** and **TELL** your parents or a trusted adult friend. A dangerous stranger doesn't want to be the center of attention.

## SAFETY AT HOME

Instruct your child on how to safely answer the door:

- Never open the door to a stranger.
- If a stranger knocks on the door or rings the doorbell, tell your child to look out the peep hole or call out "Who's there?" If it's for you, your child should tell the visitor to wait and leave the door locked until you are available. If you are not home, your child should tell the visitor that you are busy and to please come back later.
- Your child can take a message, but he or she should **NEVER** open the door.
- If the visitor won't go away, and your child is scared, tell him/her to call 9-1-1.

How to answer the telephone:

- When answering the telephone, your child should not give out any information. If the caller asks "Who's this?" instruct your child to ask who the caller is and ask for whom he or she called.