



Billy

Brings his Buddies

BILLY BRINGS HIS BUDDIES

Earlier this year, a national survey found that 92% of Canadian parents may be using incorrect or out-dated language to keep their children safe from abduction and sexual exploitation (Ipsos Reid 2006). One of these techniques is the often-repeated phrase “Don’t talk to strangers!” We know that this strategy doesn’t work, as most children are abducted by people they know.

One way children can be safer is by using the Buddy System. Learning to bring a buddy along can be taught and practiced in routine activities at home, at school, and when out in the community. It is important that children do not walk alone when they are going places. To increase safety, children should always use the Buddy System and travel with someone.

Preferably, a buddy is someone who is old enough to provide supervision: mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, older sister, older brother, babysitter, etc. However, walking to and from school or playing in the front yard with a friend will also increase safety.

We encourage parents to teach the Buddy System to their children and encourage its use at all times. Please visit www.kidsintheknow.ca/billy to read an animated story and complete activities that will help your young children learn the importance of going places with a Buddy.

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