

Take a Friend



Grades

5-6

Overview

Students watch the “Know the Rules” rap video and discuss the importance of taking a friend with them when going places or playing outside. Students read pretend headlines (situations cards) and write or type a “Letter to the Editor” in response to the headlines.

Safety Message

I will take a friend with me when going to the store, movie theater, public restrooms, playing at the park or playground, or walking to and from school. By sticking together with my friend, we can help look out for each other if one of us is in danger or gets hurt.

Time

30-40 minutes

Materials

- Computer lab or computer connected to an LCD projector or television monitor
- “Know the Rules” rap video
- “Headline News” situation cards (attachment 1), copied and cut
- Envelopes, stamps (optional)



Activity

Explain to students that they will be watching the “Know the Rules” rap about real-world safety tips. Tell students: *Listen closely because we will be discussing the tips from the “Know the Rules” rap after we have watched it.* Show them the “Know the Rules” rap. It may be necessary to play the rap more than once for the students. *What rules do you remember from the rap?* List them on the board.

The safety message we are going to focus on today is the second rule: I will take a friend with me when going to the store, movie theater, public restrooms, playing at the park or playground, or walking to and from school. By sticking together with my friend, we are less likely to be bothered and my friend will help look out for me if I am in danger or get hurt. And always remember to check first with your parent, guardian, or trusted adult before you go anywhere or do anything or if you

change your plans. Why is it a good idea to take a friend when you are out in a public place? It is always safer in public places to have a friend or trusted adult with you because you can look out for each other, help each other if one of you is hurt or in danger, and people are less likely to bother you. When should you take a friend with you to help you stay safer? On the way to and from school, stopping at the restroom, playing on the playground, walking in your neighborhood, going to the store, going to the gym or swimming pool. Explain to the students that a friend could also be a brother or sister. Sometimes it is nice to have some time by yourself. Where is it safer to have some time alone? In your bedroom or somewhere with a trusted adult nearby. Why are these places safer? Because they are within your house or in a place that has a trusted adult to help you if you need it.



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After the discussion, pass out the “Headline News” situation cards (attachment 1) and have the children write a “Letter to the Editor” to explain how they would approach the situation. Remind students to emphasize the need to take a friend or trusted adult in these situations. Solution cards have been provided to give suggestions for possible responses. A response might start like this “Dear Editor, in reading your article I found that the best way to approach...” or something similar. As an extension to

the activity, you can teach students about formal letter writing. Have them include a return address, destination address, date, salutation, and end greeting. If time and budget permit, have students address and stamp envelopes and mail to themselves to reinforce the safety message. Challenge the students to “take a friend” in the upcoming week and revisit the topic once the letters have been received to get feedback and reinforce the safety message.

Know the Rules: Take a Friend

Grades 5-6 • Attachment 1

— *Headline News 1* —

A neighbor who you are friends with and have permission to visit asks if you would come inside and help her rearrange the furniture.

What should you do?

— *Headline News 1* —

Check first with your trusted adult to see if it is OK for you to help your neighbor. Invite your dad or friend to help too. That way your parents or guardian will not worry about where you are or what you are doing.

Suggested Solutions

— *Headline News 2* —

Halfway through a movie you need to use the restroom.

What should you do?

— *Headline News 2* —

Ask your trusted adult or friend to go with you. Otherwise, wait until the end and go with your trusted adult or friend then.

Suggested Solutions

— *Headline News 3* —

You want to check out the latest video game when your family goes to the mall to shop, and your parent or guardian has said it's OK.

What should you do?

— *Headline News 3* —

Ask your trusted adult to go with you or wait until someone in your family can come with you. Otherwise, go with a sibling or friend and tell your parents or guardian you will wait for them there.

Suggested Solutions

Know the Rules: Take a Friend

Grades 5-6 • Attachment 1

— *Headline News 4* —

You want to go to the library to do some research and you've asked permission.

What should you do?

— *Headline News 4* —

If your parent or guardian has said it's OK to go to the library, see if a friend or trusted adult will go with you.

Suggested Solutions

— *Headline News 5* —

You need to pick up your school notebook that you left at your friend's house. He lives down the street, and it is getting dark outside. Your parent or guardian says it's OK.

What should you do?

— *Headline News 5* —

Ask your parent or guardian to walk with you. Otherwise, ask an older sibling to walk you down to your friend's house.

Suggested Solutions

— *Headline News 6* —

A neighbor, who you have permission to visit, offers you money if you carry some things in for her from her garage.

What should you do?

— *Headline News 6* —

Check first with your trusted adult and see if it is OK to accept money for a "job." Go back if you are allowed and take a friend to split the job and money; otherwise, call your neighbor and tell him or her that you can't accept the job.

Suggested Solutions

Know the Rules: Take a Friend

Grades 5-6 • Attachment 1

— *Headline News 7* —

You want to go to the library to do some research and you've asked permission.

What should you do?

— *Headline News 7* —

Ask your friends if they also need to do some research so you can go together. Otherwise, ask your parents if they would take you, drop you off, and pick you up when you are finished. Call your parents or guardian when you are finished and stay only in the library so that your parents know where you are.

Suggested Solutions

— *Headline News 8* —

A neighbor, who you have permission to visit, asks if you would like to come over to try out her new computer.

What should you do?

— *Headline News 8* —

Check first with your trusted adult to see if it's OK to try out the new computer. That way your trusted adult will not worry about where you are or what you are doing. You could also take a friend along.

Suggested Solutions

— *Headline News 9* —

When you are at the park with some friends, you want to go to the store to get a snack.

What should you do?

— *Headline News 9* —

Check first with your trusted adult and get permission. If it's OK, have your friends go with you to the store. You are safer in a group, so go together. If it's not OK, ask your parents if they can take you to get a snack or if they will bring you one to share with your friends.

Suggested Solutions

Know the Rules: Take a Friend

Grades 5-6 • Attachment 1

— *Headline News 10* —

After school you decide you want to walk home rather than take the bus, and you check first with your parent or guardian.

What should you do?

— *Headline News 10* —

If your parent or guardian says that it's OK, walk with a group of kids who are also going in your direction or live in your neighborhood. If no one is walking your way, stay only on the sidewalks and walk directly home without stopping for any reason.

Suggested Solutions

— *Headline News 11* —

Your uncle, who is staying with you, asks you to walk to the store and get milk for dinner.

What should you do?

— *Headline News 11* —

You need to first ask your parents or guardian for permission to do this. If you have permission, see if your uncle or a sibling will go to get milk with you. Otherwise, tell your uncle you are not allowed to go to the store without permission from your parents or guardian.

Suggested Solutions

— *Headline News 12* —

Your mother wants you to take a letter to the post office.

What should you do?

— *Headline News 12* —

Ask one of your siblings or friends to walk with you. Otherwise, walk to the post office and back without stopping for any reason.

Suggested Solutions