

## Protecting Yourself Online

- Never give out identifying information-home address, school name or telephone number without your parents permission.
- Never send a person your picture or anything else without checking with your parents first.
- Never agree to meet someone you have met online without checking with your parents first. If your parents agree to the meeting be sure that it is in a public place and your mother or father comes along.
- Never respond to any messages that makes you feel uncomfortable. It is not your fault if you get a message like that but be sure to tell your parents right away so that they can contact the online service.
- Remember that people online may not be who they seem. Because you can't see or even hear the person it would be for someone to misrepresent him or her self. Thus, someone indicating that "she" is a "12 year-old girl" could be really be a 40-year-old man.
- Remember that everything you read online may not be true. Any offer that is "too good to be true" probably is. Be very careful of offers that involve your coming to a meeting or having someone visit your home.

OLAPF/WCMCA©010409

## THE OLAPF/WCMC PROGRAM

The Operation L.A.P. Foundation, Inc., program was founded in May 2002 following the disappearance of 7 year old Alexis Patterson from her school yard. With the aid of Y.E.S., Inc. it has become a pro-active organization designed to educate children about stranger awareness, abduction awareness and personal safety. OLAPF is a 501 c3 tax exempt non-profit organization

### CRISIS NUMBERS Your Local Police

**Wisconsin Center for Missing Children**  
**(920) 220-1558 Crisis**  
**(877) 570-5456 Toll Free**

**THE WISCONSIN STATE CLEARING  
HOUSE**  
**(800) 843-4673**

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND  
EXPLOITED CHILDREN**  
**(800) 843-5678**

## RESOURCES

Operation L.A.P. Foundation, Inc. offers: Resource materials, handouts, referrals, tip sheets and brochures on child safety.

Education and awareness programs for school, parent, community and civic organizations and professional groups on child safety and abduction related issues.

Experienced personal to assist families, volunteer groups, child service agencies and law enforcement.

# MAKING SAFE DECISIONS



**DIVISION OF  
OPERATION L.A.P. FOUNDATION, INC.  
PO BOX 33, FORT ATKINSON, WI 53536**

**MILWAUKEE  
(414) 763-6596**

**W5521 W PLEASANT HILL ROAD  
JEFFERSON, WI 53549  
(920) 563-7007**

**TOLL FREE: (877) 570-5456  
FAX: (626) 604-4775  
HTTP://WWW.WCMCKIDS.ORG  
WCMCA@IDCNET.COM**

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## HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M IN AN UNSAFE SITUATION?

You must learn to assess the situation and use your own judgment. Learn as much as you can about abductors and how they operate, become “street smart”. In these times of heightened crime, educate yourself to the possibilities of real danger in a real world. This may be the one crucial edge we have to keeping ourselves safe from harm. It is not necessary for us to become paranoid of rounding a corner, it is necessary to be aware of our surroundings, alert to possibilities and prepared for dangerous situations.

Remember to always trust your feeling. Instinct is nature’s way of taking care of us. An instinct can be a funny feeling in your stomach, a creepy feeling that gives you a shiver or just a feeling of wariness that says you should be careful. We should pay close attention to these feelings because “feeling funny” inside about a person (relative or stranger) can be a warning sign of danger.



### HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?



- The best self defense is awareness.
- Always walk with confidence. Look around, stay alert and keep your head up. If a stranger asks you for directions or help, stay “arms reach plus” from the car or person.
- Role Playing. Think about what you would do if you were assaulted. Try to select methods that would suit you personally and practice with a friend or relative. Having this experience to fall back on can eliminate the panic that sometimes occurs in bad situations.
- Buddy System: Always try to go places with one or more friends. If you are not able to go with a friend or friends, stay near a group of people.
- Private Conversations: The mall and summer picnics are fun places to see friends. In places like these, people can hear what you and your friends talk about. Try not to let strangers hear you talk about plans you are making-like when you have to leave or who is picking you up.
- **ALWAYS** let your parents or someone know where you are going, who you will be going with and when you plan to return home. If you are not home at your pre-specified time and you have not called to let your parents know that you will be late, your parents can and should be calling their local law enforcement agency to file a missing persons report.

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## MOVING AWAY FROM DANGER

- The Yell: There is a difference between the self defense yell (power Yell) and a regular scream. The yell comes from deep in the stomach, not high in the throat. It is a battle cry-not a frightened screech. The sound of anger and attack breaks through the moment of panic and startles the attacker. It makes you look strong and angry instead of weak and scared. It also attracts attention.
- The Escape: Like the Yell, escape works best when you can act the instant you recognize you are in danger. The longer you talk or negotiate with a possible offender, the harder it will be to get away.
- Running and yelling combined is the most effective way of escaping assault. Even if you are not sure of the danger, do not be afraid of looking silly; it is far better than taking the risk!

