

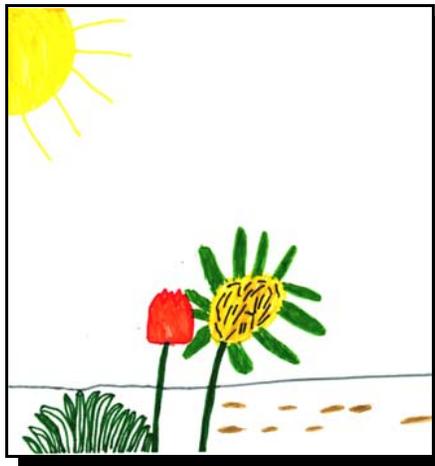
New Neighborhood Safety Tips

- Make certain that your children know their full name and learn their new address and telephone number as soon as possible.
- Take your children on a walking tour of the neighborhood, including their new school. Help them learn the surrounding streets and main road by name and landmark. Caution your children about taking shortcuts and determine some public places that they can go to for assistance if they are ever in trouble or lost.

When you get home, make a map with your children of the acceptable routes to school, the playground, store, and any other locations that they are allowed to visit. They should keep this map with them to refer to if they need help finding their way.

- If your children ride the bus to school, visit the bus stop and learn the bus number. Remind your children always to stay with other children, use the buddy system, and report any unusual or confusing incidents to you.
- Make a point of meeting your neighbors and introducing them to your children while you are with them.
- List emergency telephone numbers by your telephone as soon as possible after you move into your new home. If you have a new pager or cellular telephone number, make certain that your children have these numbers as well.
- Once your children have made new friends in the neighborhood, remind them that they must check first before they go anywhere with their new friends. This includes accepting rides from new neighbors or going into their homes.

- Remind your children of the safety rules when they are home alone. These include keeping the doors and windows locked; never opening the door for someone they don't know; and checking with you first before they open the door, even if you are there.
- Caution your children never to give out personal information to someone who calls on the telephone. Instruct your children to tell the caller that you are not available and to take a message.
- Reassure your children that you are there to help them if they need assistance or just want to talk about this new experience. Let them know that they should tell a trusted adult if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable, afraid or confused in any way.
- Remember to practice these safety rules with your children to make certain that they really know and understand them. Make outings around the new neighborhood "teachable moments" and a chance to put their skills to the test.



The NYS Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse (MECC)

Services generally fall into three categories: support for law enforcement, assistance provided to left-behind family members and community outreach.

- **The 1-800-FIND-KID hotline** operates 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. In addition to case intakes, missing child lead information received on this line is immediately disseminated to investigating police agencies.

- **The statewide missing and unidentified person repository** is continually updated by MECC with information submitted by law enforcement agencies.

- **Investigative assistance** provided to law enforcement agencies includes:

Flagging missing child birth and educational records.

Electronically distributing missing child posters via high speed broadcast fax/email systems. When a child is deemed to be "endangered", the *NYS AMBER Alert* and *DCJS Missing Child/College Student Alert* Programs are used to provide the most rapid and widespread public dissemination of information possible. Distribution includes police agencies, television and radio stations, NYS Thruway toll booths and service areas, border crossings, airports and bus terminals.

Placing missing child photographs and biographical information on the DCJS and NCMEC (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children) web sites.

- **MECC collaboration** with the NCMEC, other state clearinghouses, other State agencies, non-profit organizations, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and courts can provide nationwide assistance to police agencies and family members.

- **MECC community outreach** includes: developing and distributing educational literature and making presentations at professional conferences and schools.



Moving to a new neighborhood is a big change for everyone in the family. It can be an exciting time but may also create some stress and confusion for family members, especially children.

Communicating with your children about the new home and neighborhood and reassuring them about the changes are vital.

It is also important to pay careful attention to their feelings and allow them to express themselves about all the changes they are experiencing.

That is why the New York State Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse, in conjunction with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), the National Association of Realtors® and the U.S. Department of Justice developed these tips for parents to practice with their children to help ensure a safe and happy new home for them.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT US AT:**

**NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
4 Tower Place
Albany, NY 12203**

1-800-FIND-KID

**Missing child photographs and biographical
information and additional child safety information can
be viewed on our website.**

www.criminaljustice.state.ny.us

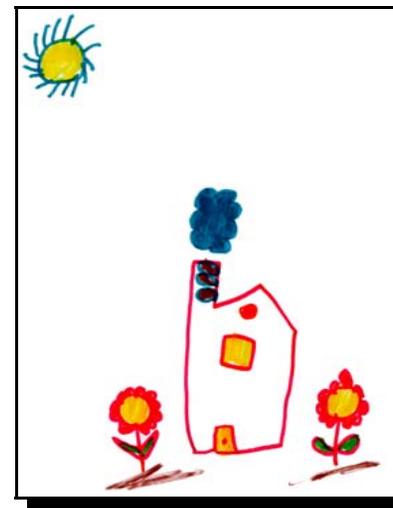
Contributions made to the NYS MECC Fund made reproduction of this brochure possible. Contributions can be forwarded directly to the fund at the address listed above. Also, the NYS Tax Law now allows individuals to donate to the MECC Fund when filing state income tax returns. Every penny of your contribution goes directly to support the work of the Clearinghouse and local efforts statewide.

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NEW NEIGHBORHOOD



SAFETY TIPS

