

PRESS RELEASE 0405-07

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT DR. THERESA A. DAEM, Ed.D. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

(949) 497-7700

Child Safety

Concern for student safety does not only start with the beginning of the school year: student well-being is an important focus year around for the Laguna Beach School District's staff and teachers.

Theresa A. Daem, Superintendent, explains, "We care very much about our students. We have been working with PTA, the Police Department, and our school principals to build and sustain a community-wide awareness that we hope will contribute to our students' safety."

"30 Ways to Help Prevent Child Abduction", on the reverse side of this sheet, went home to parents via students the first day of school.

30 Ways to Help Prevent Child Abduction

Young Children Should:

✓ Never say they are home alone	✓ Never answer the door if they are alone
✓ Never allow anyone into the home without permission	✓ Not go into anyone's house without letting someone know where they are
✓ Never get into anyone's car	✓ Not take candy or gifts from strangers
✓ Never play in deserted buildings or isolated areas	✓ Scream and scatter books or belongings if forced towards a building or car
✓ Move away from a car if approached by an unknown driver	✓ Be taught to say "no" to an adult who wants them to do something they know is wrong
✓ Know about improper touching	✓ Tell an adult of any indecent exposure
✓ Tell an adult if asked to keep a secret	✓ Go to a cashier if lost in a mall

Older Children/Teens Should:

✓ Let you know where they are at all times	✓ Never hitchhike
✓ Avoid shortcuts though empty parks, fields, yards or alleys	✓ Run home, yell for help or go to the nearest public place if you are being followed
✓ Recognize suspicious behavior and remember descriptions of persons or vehicles to give to the police. Write plate number in the dirt if nothing is available	✓ Give up money, jewelry or clothing rather than risking personal injury
✓ Feel they call talk or call you to pick them up any time, any place	

Parents Should:

✓ Avoid putting children's names in clothing or on toys – children are less likely to fear someone that know their name	✓ Check all babysitters and older friends of your child
✓ Never leave your child alone in a public place, stroller or car. Not even for a minute	✓ Always accompany your child on door-to-door activities
✓ Point out safe houses	✓ Allow your child to share their feelings
✓ Teach them that the police are their friends and can rely on them in case of trouble	✓ Keep an up-to-date color photo of your child, medical and dental history and have your child fingerprinted
✓ Always accompany young children to the bathroom in a public place.	