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Stranger Danger - How To Talk To Kids About Strangers



Synopsis

Written by an award winning teacher, *Stranger Danger - How to Talk to Kids About Strangers* is a guide to help parents and caregivers of children ages 3-8 teach kids about strangers in a fun, interactive, and age appropriate way - without scaring them. Kids want and need to know what to DO in dangerous situations, but are usually only told to what NOT to do. (Don't talk to strangers; don't get in the car with strangers, etc.) Even the multitude of children's picture books about strangers (most aimed at the 8-12 year old age group) often fail to teach kids what they CAN do if they find themselves confronted with a stranger. *Stranger Danger - How to Talk to Kids About Strangers* is different. It is a how-to book is for parents and caregivers of children ages 3-8. Using techniques developed over decades of teaching young children, author Kristi Porter takes into consideration the unique thinking and learning styles of this younger age group, offering parents a new way to talk to their kids about strangers without scaring them. This easy to read, step by step guide gives parents age appropriate words and activities to use with even the youngest of children. Covering everything from who is a stranger, to when and how to fight back, it also includes bonus chapters about getting lost, and good tough/bad touch issues, making *Stranger Danger - How to Talk to Kids About Strangers* a must read guide for today's parents.

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

"Let me begin by saying that I am a teacher, currently working in an early childhood classroom with

kids ages 3-6. I received my copy of Ms. Porter's Stranger Danger - How to Talk to Kids About Strangers from a colleague, and must say it is the only how-to book for parents that I have come across, for children in this age group, that I wholeheartedly recommend to others. This is a MUST READ book for parents! Ms. Porter approaches this very important subject from the child's point of view - something other books about strangers haven't done well. Parents need to understand that young kids have their own unique way of thinking and viewing different situations, so talking to them about strangers in the way you would talk to your 10 year old won't work. Little kids learn differently, and this book is a much needed addition to the stranger danger genre. This short, but to the point book includes step by step instructions, activities to do with even very young children, special chapters on getting lost, good touch/bad touch issues, and a list of other parent resources. I love many of the techniques used in this book, and will be recommending it to the parents of my students this fall." ~Jennifer Wagner (Sacramento CA)

"This is an easy to follow step by step guide that provides essential information on how to talk to kids about stranger danger without scaring them. In addition to strangers, it touches on the important topics of getting lost, and good touch vs. bad touch, and shows parents how to reinforce the included lessons. At the end of the book there is a list children's books, and parent websites where you learn more about how to keep children safe. I definitely recommend Stranger Danger - How to Talk to Kids About Strangers to anyone who has or knows someone with children." ~ Jasmine S. Goodreads.com.

"A very precise and necessary book. As the mother of a preschooler, I suffered anxiety about how to discuss stranger danger with my daughter. This book is excellent. Kristi Porter's advice is very straight-forward and easy to follow. Exactly what I needed for approaching this extremely important topic and action plan with my daughter. I read it in 45 minutes (couldn't put it down) and so glad I did. Thank You!!" ~M. Dennison (New York, N.Y.)

Stranger Danger - How to Talk to Kids About Strangers, reveals the shocking truth at how easily a child can be swayed to walk away with a complete stranger! This book educates the parent on how to teach their child to know the difference between a good stranger and a bad stranger, in a way that is fun for both the parent and the child. I believe every parent with a small child, or those planning a family, should have this book to use as a safety guide. It could possibly save their child's life in the future. ~Mike Feistel, author of America from the Other Side of the Tracks

The Story Behind This Book Early in my teaching career, while putting together a unit about child safety for my class, I came across a statistic that stated: "In the majority of small child, stranger kidnapping cases, the child is simply taken by the hand and led quietly away." I wasn't sure that I

agreed with that statistic, and decided to put it to the test. With the parents' permission, I arranged to conduct a simple 'stranger test' at the annual springtime family picnic. Held at a popular local playground, twenty-four children (ages 2-8) and their parents attended. While the assistant teachers supervised the children, I called the parents aside and explained how the 'stranger test' would work. An adult unknown to the children would simply walk up to them, take their hand and lead them away toward the parking lot. If the child asked where they were going, the 'stranger' would simply tell them there was some candy in the car, and that the child could have some if they wanted it. When they reached the car, (in full view of the playground and parents) the 'stranger' would simply tell the child that they ran out of candy, show them an empty candy bag, and return the child to the playground. If at any time the child resisted or became frightened, the 'stranger' would immediately let go and move away. The parents were to stay on the sidelines and observe, agreeing to not punish their child if indeed they did walk away with one of the 'strangers'. This was to be a teachable moment - one that children, parents, and teachers would all discuss together at the end of the day. While many of the parents commented they didn't think their child would ever walk away with someone they didn't know, all agreed to allow their child to participate. I called in my 'stranger' volunteers - one young adult male, and one middle aged female. Both were teachers in another program and unknown to the children or their parents. I stood with the parents at the edge of the playground and watched with astonishment as one by one, almost half of the children simply walked away with one of the 'strangers'! Over the course of an afternoon, 11 children accompanied a 'stranger' to the car - with no resistance, not even a glance back over their shoulder. They simply held hands and walked away - for nothing more than the promise of candy. Of the remaining children, only one became visibly frightened and was immediately returned to their parent. The others simply pulled their hand away and ran off to play with their friends. Only four of them reported the 'stranger' to a teacher or parent. This experiment really opened my eyes about how young children view strangers, and why Stranger Danger Programs often fail. Since that day twenty-five years ago, I've made it my mission to help teach young kids to stay safe. I've used the methods in this book with hundreds of kids ages 3-7, and I'm happy to report that many of my earliest students (who are now adults) tell me that they still remember the lessons they learned about strangers, and want to know how to use those same methods to teach their children how to stay safe. So it is for those first students, now parents themselves, that I've put this book together.

As the mother of a preschooler, I suffered anxiety about how to discuss stranger danger with my daughter. This book is excellent. Kristi Porter's advice is very straight-forward and easy to follow.

Exactly what I needed for approaching this extremely important topic and action plan with my daughter. I read it in 45 minutes (couldn't put it down) and so glad I did. Thank You!!

I thought this book was a great teaching tool for parents. It helps parents know and understand how to talk to their children about strangers. It gave me a point of view that I never knew how children really thought about what strangers really look like to them. It was a must read book!

Guide you thru real experiences and real talk with your child. Very easy to read and great advice. I would definitely recommend because it is a very important topic

It is practical. A very clear introduction to the subject with practical tasks. I recommend it to every parent or child care.

Great video for introducing and teaching the concept of strangers, but not scary.

Written for the parents of preschoolers and of younger grade-schoolers, *Stranger Danger* gives Moms and Dad's the direction needed in beginning an on-going dialog with their children about keeping themselves safe from abduction by strangers. All the essential elements are there for creating a framework of safety while maintaining the child's feeling of security in the world. It would be worthwhile to note, however, that while this book does contain clear information about strangers, most abductions that occur are by those who are not strangers. Unfortunately, the information in *Stranger Danger - How to Talk to Kids About Strangers* on kidnapping prevention is bereft of tools for discussing what to do in the case of the most common type of abduction, family-member or acquaintance kidnappings. Mischaracterizing by narrowing our vision to stereotypical kidnappings is almost counter-productive; it instills an almost needless sense of fear in small children (statistically, children are more likely to die of a heart attack than be kidnapped by a stranger) and leaves them without any tools to recognize when an actual abduction by a known kidnapper (which is much more common; 68% of all kidnappings are by someone known to the family.) may occur. FBI reports state that "In 2010, 70 percent of child abduction cases resulted in the identification of an offender who had a known relationship with the victim." In no way do I wish to discredit author Kristi Porter's work, it may be time to start talking to our kids about keeping safe boundaries within families and their parent's circle of friends. What a world. A physical copy of this book was provided by the publisher or author for purposes of review.

This book provided excellent ways for parents and adults to teach children about stranger danger. It's an easy step by step guide and allows parents to pick methods they can customize to fit their child. It also goes into how to talk about good touch and bad touch. I would highly recommend for parents to buy this book.

I found the subject well-handled in the book. I will use some of the suggestions when we are with our two grandsons. No matter how much we try, the kids just have to be reminded over and over.

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