

# Yell No! Run and Tell

**Y**ell **NO! RUN AND TELL** is a plan of action for abduction prevention. This safety rule helps children become more aware of their personal surroundings, and teaches safety skills that can be used throughout a person's life.

First, the children were taught that there are times when it is okay to say '**NO**' to an adult. For example, if an adult wants you to play a game that makes you feel uncomfortable, you can say '**NO**'. Children were also reminded that they should not be talking to adults that they do not know. If an adult that they do not know tries to talk to them, they should not stay and listen. They are taught to **Yell NO!** in a strong **Safety Voice**, and **RUN AND TELL** their **Grown-up**.

A note about strangers: Children this age have a hard time understanding the meaning of the word 'stranger'. Therefore, we encourage children to use all of the **KidSafe** safety rules with everyone; people they know and people they do not know.

Note: When teaching personal safety skills to children, teach from a place of empowerment not from a place of fear. Fear does not teach skills. Empowering children with how to respond to various situations and practicing through role-play and discussion builds life skills and resilience.

Role-playing reinforced the **YELL NO! RUN AND TELL** rule. Some of the scenarios included:

- A teenager approaches the children at a park and asks them if they want to see the puppies in his car. The children YELL NO! and RUN AND TELL their Grown-up.
- A car stops while the children are playing outside and the driver asks them for directions. The children do not stay to listen. They immediately YELL NO! and RUN AND TELL their Grown-up.
- A woman they do not know approaches them in a store says she will buy them any toy they want if they go for a walk with her. Even though they like the idea of getting a new toy, the Safest and Smartest Choice is to YELL NO! RUN AND TELL their Grown-up.

## Continue the KidSafe Conversation at Home

- Review the **YELL NO! RUN AND TELL** safety rule with your children.
- Play the **What if?** game. Ask:
  - "What if you are in a park with friends and a man approaches and says, 'I lost my puppy. Will you help me find him?' What should you **say**? What should you **do**?"
  - "What if you are at the store with your mom and a friendly older lady says, 'If you come with me and help me carry my packages, I will buy you whatever you want'? What should you **say**? What would you **do**?"
  - "What if you are playing outside and a car stops and the driver asks you for directions to the ice cream store? What should you **say**? What should you **do**?"
  - Have a family discussion and practice responses to scenarios that best fit your family's situation. Remind your children about always **Checking First** with their **Grown-up** and the importance of making **Safe and Smart Choices**.