



The Story's Message

I'm Lost

This book promotes awareness of **where** your child is and encourages your child to pay attention to **what** is around them. For example, your child will learn what a cash register is, and what a police officer does. The story should help begin a conversation between you and your child as you begin to discuss the locations you frequently visit.

Safety Tips for Children

- Stay close to your family.
- Know **where** you are, and **where** you are going.
- Remember **what** your family is wearing (color, stripes or plain, etc.).
- If you are lost, stay calm and don't run away. Do not try to find a member of your family by yourself. Your parent(s)/guardian will always go back to where they last saw you.
- Look for a familiar sight – remember it. You will not feel so lost if you are at a familiar place.
- Find an adult who *works* at the location where you are lost.
- Know your first and last name as well as your parents' full names.

- When asking for help, give your first name, then the full name of the person you are looking for.
- A good person helping you will *never* ask you to leave with them; they will stay with you in a public place, and find help.

Tips for Parents and/or Guardians

- If your child is missing in a public place, remember the last place you saw them, and trace your path back to that location.
- If your child disappears in a store, **first** notify the store manager or security office. Then, **immediately call or have them call your local law-enforcement agency**. Many stores have a “plan of action” if a child is missing in the store; an immediate call for action is for the employees to mobilize and look for your missing child.
- If you call law enforcement first, stay calm and provide your child's name, date of birth, height, weight, clothes they were wearing when lost, and any other key visual identifiers, such as eyeglasses and braces. Tell them *when* you noticed that your child was missing, and what clothing he or she was wearing.
- When traveling to a public place, talk openly with your children about what to do in case they become lost. Point out the location of the cash register or employees wearing a particular uniform.
- When walking, remember to keep your child in front of or directly to your side, so you can see them at all times. Do **not** have a child walk behind you; a child can fall back or get distracted without you noticing they are gone.
- If you have a cell phone, add your child as a contact and upload a photo as well as list the child's height, weight, hair color, eye color, and date of birth. You can immediately use this to show Security and Law Enforcement. Under stress this information may not be easy to recall, and it needs to be as correct as possible. * Don't forget to password protect your phone!
- Allow your child a chance to talk about what they think they should do in order to be safe – listen carefully to them, and encourage safe thoughts and responses. Make every opportunity you can to teach your child what they need to do to “ThinkSafe2BeSafe” every single day.

ThinkSafe2BeSafe.com

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