



MARYSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

SELF-DEFENSE FOR LITTLE PEOPLE



What kid would have a chance if a big adult tried to grab them?

Many kids have been grabbed, but have gotten away, even though they've been much smaller and lighter. By being smart, they are keeping safe.

One example can be used when a child has their bike or another large item nearby. Imagine having to drag an unwilling person and their bike into an open car door. By holding onto your bike and not letting go, you make it impossible for a would-be kidnapper to fit you through their car door. By screaming and causing a fuss, the bad person also risks attracting attention to the scene. For a bad person who doesn't want to get caught, attention is the last thing they want.

Another example of how you can get away from an adult is the "Windmill Technique." Someone you don't want to go with grabs your arm, and begins to pull you toward a waiting car, building or deserted area. By rotating your straight arm rapidly in a circle from your shoulder, like a windmill, you can catch that person off guard and break their grip. Then it's time to run and scream! Remember, bad people don't want attention from good adults!

Sometimes, the best way to keep yourself safe is to keep your distance. Let's say a car pulls up to the curb and a friendly-looking woman in a nice dress asks if you can give her directions to the park. She may try to get you to come closer to the car, saying that she can't hear you. She may ask you to ride along with her to show her the way, or offer you money, or tell you that your mom or dad told her that it is okay for you to go along with her. But you should NEVER get within "grabbing" distance of a car with someone in it that you don't know. Stay firmly on the sidewalk, turn and run the other direction quickly. You don't have to be polite, you don't have to say

anything at all, just turn and run in the direction opposite the car is headed. Since it takes awhile for a car to make a turn, it should give you a chance to get away.

What if the car follows you though? You can keep changing directions until you can get somewhere safe. Crowded stores with a clerk on duty, a police or fire station, any place with lot of witnesses and someone who can help you are good choices. If you are in a block of houses, you can either go to a house your parents have approved, or you can scream, yell and make a commotion to draw attention to yourself. Hopefully, this will bring people to their windows to see what's going on. The people in the houses may even take down the license plate number or type of car. A bad person who wants to steal children won't want that kind of trouble.

Keeping your distance also applies to avoiding bad situations with people on foot. Let's say that a nice-looking man in the park comes toward you with a "Missing" poster for an adorable puppy. He's even got a leash in his hand and he looks sad. He wants you to help, and he misses his puppy so much that he's even willing to pay a reward for the kid that finds his puppy.

As much as you may love animals, don't help someone like this. It's easy for someone to get any photo of any dog and make up fake posters on their home computers. Anyone can buy a dog leash, even if they don't have a dog. Get away fast and tell an adult you know what happened.