

10 WAYS PARENTS CAN PREVENT & IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a problem that hides in plain sight – in our neighborhoods, schools, and now online. Armed with the facts, parents can have a powerful influence to help recognize and prevent this dangerous crime that is jeopardizing the safety of our kids and their peers.

KNOW & TALK THEIR LANGUAGE

1 Don't Be Naïve

Kids' lack of life experience make them prime targets for predators. "My child would never do that!" is not a guarantee.



2 Live By Example

The way you define/express love shapes your children's self-image, resilience, and opinions of relationships. Help them distinguish between real love and empty promises.



3 Communicate Positive Messages

Instill confidence in your kids by recognizing and acknowledging their strengths and good decisions. Tell them why you're proud of who they are.



4 Understand Sexual Abuse & Trafficking

Help your kids understand young people are targeted and traffickers don't always "look the part." Establish an open relationship and let them know that if they see, hear, or experience something that makes them uncomfortable, they can come to you.



5 Know Their Social Circle

Meet your kids' friends, their friends' parents, and adults they spend time with. Be wary of boyfriends or girlfriends who are much older and friendships that isolate them.



BE MEDIA SAVVY

6 Monitor Their Smartphone

Many apps that kids use daily – and parents have no clue about – can expose them to questionable situations and individuals. These include apps like Tinder, SnapChat, Blendr, Kik, Whisper, Yik Yak, Poof, Down, YouNow, and Omegle. Consider using a site like TeenSafe, which allows you to monitor their phone activity remotely.



7 Inspect Other Activity

Make sure you have all of your children's logins and passwords on social media. Review and monitor their access to gaming systems, adult movie channels, and internet sites.



8 Teach Internet Etiquette, tell your children to:



NEVER SHARE PERSONAL information on the Internet



AVOID INTERACTION with people they don't know



NEVER SHARE INAPPROPRIATE photos of themselves



ALERT SOMEONE if they are approached by an unfamiliar person

TAKE THE RIGHT STEPS

9 Be Aware & Act

If you notice sudden warning signs, such as changes in behavior or possessions, unexplained absences from school, pornography viewing, dating or other physical abuse, or substance abuse, seek professional resources.



10 Know How to Help

- If someone is in immediate danger, call 911
- **The National Human Trafficking Resource Center:** 888-373-7888 (hotline available 24/7)
- **For additional education/prevention resources:** newfriendsnewlife.org

