



Global Children's Fund

ABDUCTION ALERT-05-1

Important Note: This is but one small part of child safety, not meant to be complete safety education. Please visit us online at WWW.KEEPYOURCHILDSAFE.ORG, for a variety of **free book downloads** which cover all area's of Child Safety

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In our online ventures working with pedophiles, we were grateful to have one of them come to us to let us know about a variation of an old trick that he heard someone bragging about in order to abduct a child. While we were unable to track the statement back to the person who was discussing such an abduction, it did tip us off to a hole in most child safety programs, including ours.

We've all talked with children about strangers, and told them that if a stranger ever approaches them or pulls up beside them, they need to stay away from the car. It seems to be working, as this type of abduction is getting harder to pull off. Children are successful everyday in foiling these type of abduction attempts, thanks to a parents talking with their children about strangers.

However, most safety programs, and most of the illustrations parents give children is what to do if a stranger pulls up besides them or approaches them. But what if the stranger is allready there?

As the tipster illustrated to us, the person was bragging about how easy it was to abduct a child simply by modifying a small part of this technique. Let the child come to you.

Rather than pulling up to children and trying to lure them away, potential abductors are spending a little more time to case out a neighborhood, often times around a school, recreation center, park, or other spot where children may be walking to and from the location and their houses. Rather than pulling up to the children as they walk along, they are being more patient. They will pick a spot to park along the path that children walk, and wait.

Then, in order to complete the abduction, they will get out of their car, keep the car door open usually, and pretend to busy themselves with other things in order to distract a child. They will pretend to be talking on a cell phone, they may dress up in a suit and tie and pretend to be going through their briefcase, or doing something else so that the child will not suspect anything. Then, as the child casually walks by the car, as they probably do many other times a day, the abductor will snatch them and be off.

What to do...

The important thing to do, is to teach kids to be on the lookout for this type of abduction. It could occur in parking lots as children walk by, alongside the road, or anywhere else someone could park and wait. Teach children that whenever they walk by a parked car with a person around it or inside, they should try to carefully cross the street and walk on the other side, or, if this is not possible, step off the sidewalk and walk as far away from the car as possible to pass it. A person may sometimes park there day after day while they are staking the neighborhood, so just because you always see someone outside, does not mean it is ok. As with any other form of stranger abduction, teach kids to yell and scream as instructed in our books. Parents can also help out by being aware of their surroundings, and watching out for someone without kids who is consistently parked where children are walking.

For additional information on abduction prevention, please visit us at www.KeepYourChildSafe.org, where we offer a variety of materials and aids to help teach your children abduction prevention.