

River Forest Police Department  
ISEARCH Safety Education Program

## Kindergarten Safety Class Summary

Recently, a police officer and instructors from the ISEARCH Safety Program of the River Forest Police Department met with your child for a class on safety.

### Class #1

In this class, we introduce the police officer as a community helper. We explain the police uniform and all the equipment a police officer uses in his job.

We explain that an officer is a helper in safety and define for children how to use an officer for safety problems. For example, police officers can help them if they are lost, if someone takes something from them, like a bicycle or backpack, if someone is following them. We define the word emergency as a time when they need help right away, and give examples of emergencies, such as a fire, if someone is injured, if there is an accident, if something is stolen.

We teach ways to get help in emergencies: 1. 911  
2. The emergency hand signal

### Class #2

In this class, we practice safe solutions to two safety problems:

1. Safety when lost
2. Safety with strangers

Through role-plays and discussions, we act out scenes in which a child is lost in a store and when strangers might approach a child, offering help or asking the child for help.

When a child is lost, we recommend the following:

1. waiting in the open where the child last saw the person they were with
2. asking a store employee for help, going to the customer service desk.

We advise against wandering, searching through a store for a missing care-taker and we advise not to leave the building or go into a parking lot to look for the family car or school bus.

With strangers, we recommend children say no to strangers if a stranger asks them to go with them or asks them for help. Even if a stranger is friendly and nice, they should not go with someone they do not know. We teach how to keep a safe distance from people they don't know and we encourage children to tell an adult anytime someone they don't know asks them to go with them or asks them for help.

Questions: please call or write:

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ISEARCH is a personal safety curriculum for students in grades K - 8, supported by the Police Department of River Forest and River Forest Township Youth Services.