



PARENT LETTER

TODAY'S LESSON: LESSON 1

In today's lesson, your child was introduced to the concept of safety in the community and attributes of good citizens. "Community" is defined in this lesson as being made up of all the people who live in your area. Members of your community include you and your family, your neighbors and all the people at your child's school.

Communities are made up of people students know and people they don't. A good citizen is someone who cares about others, follows rules and tries to help make the world a better place.

Being a good citizen is being able to recognize:

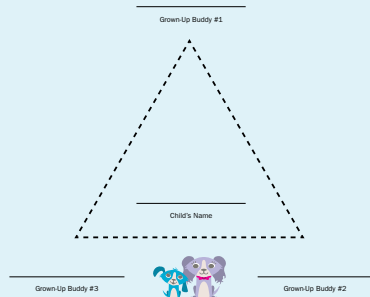
- A Wrongdoing – an unsafe behavior or action
- A Wrongdoer – anyone who does something that is unsafe that may affect them or somebody else
- A Victim – a person who is hurt or threatened by a wrongdoer

The concept of a "bystander" was introduced. A bystander is defined as someone who stands by and witnesses wrongdoing, but does not do anything about it. While bystanders are not encouraged to intervene and put themselves in danger, they should tell a person in authority.

PARENT CONNECTION:

The most important part of abuse prevention is open and honest communication between parent/caregiver and child. As caregivers, we often assume our children know we are there for them no matter what, but by providing them with ample individual attention we give them support, guidance and an outlet to tell us anything. This open forum will not only build trust, but will also increase their self-confidence and self-worth.

MY TRUSTED TRIANGLE



TIPS TO FURTHER TODAY'S LESSON:

Throughout this curriculum, your child will come to understand the importance of identifying Grown-Up Buddies and using the Grown-Up Buddy System. Grown-Up Buddies are adults who are responsible for a child's protection and are the adults they can go to in any unsafe or confusing situation.

Help your child create his or her Trusted Triangle of Grown-Up Buddies. As you do this with your child, remember that a Grown-Up Buddy must be old enough to drive a car and should be individuals you trust with your child's safety. Please sign the completed Trusted Triangle and send it back to school with your child. Later, your child's teacher will return the Trusted Triangle to you to place in a prominent place in your house, like the refrigerator. Putting the Trusted Triangle in a place for everyone to see will reinforce the Grown-Up Buddy principle with your child and help others see that your child has a system to report abuse. Please note that it is important that at least one person in the Trusted Triangle be outside the family, and remember to help your child update their Trusted Triangle at least once a year to make sure the adults listed are still active in your child's life and are in a position to help.

