

## What Families Can Do to Keep Children Safe

1. Get involved. Join The Family Resource Center and The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA). The Family Resource Center can provide you with information of all kinds. We can speak at your place of worship, club, or civic group. With your donation of only \$25.00, you can receive valuable updates and information through our quarterly newsletter.
2. Educate yourself. Get more valuable information on things your family can do to protect children by contacting The Family Resource Center and visiting these helpful sites:
  - SLED Sex Offender Registry: [www.sled.sc.gov](http://www.sled.sc.gov)
  - The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)
  - Darkness To Light: [www.darkness2light.org](http://www.darkness2light.org)
  - SCCADVASA: [www.sccadvasa.org](http://www.sccadvasa.org)
3. Listen to and believe your children. Pay attention if they tell you they don't want to be with someone or go somewhere.
4. Never leave a child in a car alone
5. Take time to talk to your children. Encourage open communication and learn how to be an active listener.
6. Know your child's friends and their friends' family.
7. Notice when someone shows one or all of your children a great deal of attention or begins giving them gifts.
8. Teach your children they have the right to say NO to any touch or actions by others that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. Teach them to immediately tell you if this happens. Reassure them that you're there to help and it is okay to tell you anything.
9. Look and listen to small cues and clues that something may be troubling your children because children are not always comfortable disclosing disturbing events or feelings.
10. Be sure to screen babysitters and caregivers. Ask children how the experience with the caregiver was. Check the caregivers' references and the Sex Offender Registry. Drop in unexpectedly from time to time.
11. Provide oversight and supervision of your children's computer use. Keep the computer in a common area where you can monitor who is communicating with your child. Establish rules and guidelines for computer use for your children.
12. Have designated check-in times for your children when they are away from home.
13. Be involved with your children's activities. As an active participant, you'll have a better opportunity to observe how the adults in charge interact with your children.
14. Work with your children's school to institute sound child-safety programs as part of their curriculum.
15. Advocate for meaningful legislative change with elected officials.