



February 9, 2010

Dear Families,

This is your weekly letter about the safety topics discussed during our classroom Counseling lesson. I encourage you to also discuss these topics at home because family involvement is so important to the safety of our children.

This week students in Kindergarten/ First grade and Second grade/Third grade talked about bicycle safety and the importance of wearing helmets, home fire safety and having a family plan, and gun safety and how guns are not toys. Every family has their own specific rules on these subjects and should be understood by all. Take time to talk with your child about these.

The main focus of our time we covered the *Always Ask First Rule*: children should always ask their parents or the person in charge first if someone wants to give them something or take them somewhere. Ask your child to demonstrate what he or she would do in the following situation:

- If a neighbor offers them a ride home.
- If they were in the park and someone they don't know asks for help looking for a lost ball or pet.
- If someone who lives close by them wants to give them a present.

If your child follows the Always Ask First Rule, you will always know where he or she is and with whom. You will also know who is trying to make friends with your child by offering gifts. Unfortunately, children can be hurt by people they already know—friends, family, or acquaintances. By encouraging you child to always ask first, you will be better able to monitor his or her safety.

If your child is in 4/5 grade, you may hear about the silly yet relevant video, *The Safe Side: Internet Safety*. The first thing covered in this video is the *Always ask First Rule*. This reminds students to always ask first when surfing the web. Students will also learn about email safety tips and keeping personal information off the web.

Next week, February 17, we begin to talk about touching safety and how children can keep themselves safe from unwanted touch.

As always if you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

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