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Safety is something that is very important to Bloomington Public Schools – District 87 and Washington School. It is everyone's responsibility and home and school should reinforce each other. We can best help protect our students if we are proactive and reinforce safety techniques. Several years ago Washington School purchased a set of "The Safe Side" videos and resource guides. These are available for check out through the school office. While this is not a regular part of our standard curriculum we do have it available for parents or teachers. (Please contact the office for more information on how to have this sent home.) The DVD is designed for parents to watch with their children. The lessons are self explanatory and provide quick points for everyone to discuss. As parents, you are the number one teachers of your children and this resource may be something that you wish to use to help keep your students safe. We believe the most important way to teach safety to children is through open and frequent communication, discussion and practice. The video recognizes that different families have different sets of rules and opinions on safety topics, so its approach is flexible and open-ended. The primary purpose of the movie is to show kids how Hot Tips should be used in a number of familiar settings and common situations.

More information can be found at the following web sites:

[www.thesafeside.com](http://www.thesafeside.com)      <http://www.thesafeside.com/Downloads/FamilyStudyGuide.pdf>

Please also refer to the Washington School Safety Plan which was sent home in early September as a guide. Also know that we will make an announcement at least once per month regarding safe practices for children. The following items will be highlighted:

1. Always TAKE A FRIEND with you when playing or going somewhere. It's safer and more fun.
2. Always CHECK FIRST with your parents, guardians or trusted adult in charge before you go anywhere or do anything.
3. Don't be tricked by people who offer you special treats or gifts. Never accept anything from anyone without your parents or guardians permission.
4. Don't get into a vehicle or go near a vehicle with anyone on it unless you are with your parents, guardians or a trusted adult. Never take a ride from anyone without CHECKING FIRST with your parents or guardians.
5. Don't be afraid to say NO and GET AWAY from any situation that makes you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. TRUST YOUR FEELINGS and be sure to TELL a trusted adult if anything happens to make you feel this way.

Please continue your efforts at home to talk to your children about safe practices, to provide them with the skills they need to make good choices and do not hesitate to contact the police department to report suspicious behavior. Should you have questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact the school office.

Respectfully,

Jeff Lockenvitz