FAMILY
SAFETY

The safety of our families, children and young people is of great importance. Ipswich City Council aims to provide the families, children and young people of the community a safe environment to live, work and play.

It is important that you have a sound awareness of the safety issues that possibly face your family and children, and how to prevent or reduce the risk of them becoming a victim of crime.

SAFE PRACTICES AROUND THE HOUSE

- Consider placing a "whereabouts" board where all family members can write their daily schedule. This will help to keep track of all family members in case of an emergency.

- Teach children and young people not to answer the door without an adult in attendance.

- Teach your family to confirm the identity of phone callers at the start of a phone call, and teach children and young people not to advise any callers if they are home alone.

BEING SAFE ON THE INTERNET

- When using the internet, ensure you never give out personal information to unknown sources. Teach your children about online safety and be vigilant in monitoring your children's use of the internet and websites.

- Make sure your computer is a safe environment for your children. Ensure you have appropriate security software and consider an internet content filter.

- Cyberbullying is becoming a major problem for children and young people.
    - o Teach your children to ignore any bullying messages and not to reply.
    - o Most social networking sites allow you to 'block' people who are causing issues – utilise this feature if needed.

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BEING SAFE IN THE STREET

- Teach your children not to talk to or accept anything from strangers. Should your child be approached by a stranger teach them the protocol for reporting this to the correct authority (e.g. school or police) where applicable.

- Consider setting up a password system with your children. Strictly only the child and 3-4 trusted adults should know the password. The password is used if the child is being picked up from school or play by someone other than their parent or usual carer. If the person attempting to pick the child up does not know the password, the child will know they should not go with them.

- Teach your children to play where they know it's safe and the dangers of playing near alleys, empty buildings or drainage ways.

BEING SAFE IN THE POOL

- Never leave your child unattended in water or a pool.

- Always ensure the gate to your pool is kept closed. It is a good idea to make the gate lockable and keep it locked when not in use.

- Consider implementing rules around water and pools for your children and make sure your children are well aware of these rules.

  These could include:

  o No swimming unless an adult (e.g. mum or dad) says its ok

  o No running around the pool area

  o No jumping into the pool

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