



The Protect Ed™ Child abuse prevention course:

A predator's bag of tricks.





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By Kidproof Safety

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ABOUT KIDPROOF

Kidproof Safety is a Canadian Child Safety Education provider and publisher. With sixteen years of worldwide experience in safety education, Kidproof has become the preferred partner and trusted source for private & public child-centric organizations, as well as local government agencies and institutions. Educators, child psychologists, law enforcement specialists and subject matter experts assist in creating the most current safety education lessons on the planet. Through Kidproof's Protect Ed™ program, workshops, seminars, training programs, and curriculum development, we reach millions of child care supervisors, educators, schools, parents, and children every year.

ABOUT THE PROTECT ED™ PROGRAM

The Protect Ed program is designed with the child learner in mind, thus providing interactive, informative and innovative life lessons to children, allowing them to develop strong critical thinking and problem solving skills relating to their safety, health and well-being. Students from Pre-K to Grade 12 progress through a series of accessible and engaging lessons over the school year. Core themes are:

- **Physical safety:** home safety, fire, electricity, poison, gun safety, playground safety, safety outside the home, fishing, hunting, road safety, emergency response, first aid, etc.
- **Personal safety:** safety around people (strangers and non-strangers), prevention of kidnappings, sexual abuse, domestic abuse, peer pressure situations, community dangers, etc.
- **Citizenship, ethics and anti-bullying:** values of respect, compassion, courage, responsibility, and honesty, cooperation and sportsmanship, non-discrimination, tolerance, prevention against prejudice and hate, anti-bullying, etc.
- **Internet and technology safety:** limiting screen time, protecting personal information, asking permission from parents, avoiding viruses, malware, phishing sites, online criminal activities, dealing with cyberbullying, predators, inappropriate content, etc.
- **Emotional safety:** self-esteem, body image, self-confidence, core values, assertiveness versus aggressiveness, media awareness, conflict resolution, anger management, stress management, effective communication, etc .
- **Healthy living:** nutrition, exercise, hygiene, drugs and alcohol prevention, leadership, teamwork, decision making, goal setting, personal motivation skills, career planning, CV building, etc.

The Protect Ed™ program is a comprehensive safety education curriculum available for all grade levels that also includes: teacher training programs, teacher lesson plans, resource books and teacher guidebooks, as well as student workbooks and parent guidebooks.

ABOUT THE PROTECT ED™ CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COURSE: A PREDATOR'S BAG OF TRICKS

A predator's motive is to gain access and control over a child. In order to succeed, he/she must first gain the child's trust. The predator will use a set of tricks that are designed to disguise his motives, and convince the child that he/she can be trusted.

Rarely is violence used to take a child. It isn't needed. Kids are easily tricked and quite often go willingly with their attackers, because predators spend their time learning what kids like, what interests them, and ways to lure them away. Under the Protect Ed™ program, Kidproof teaches the most frequently used methods by predators for luring children. Our content and lesson plans is prepared by subject matter experts and law enforcement specialists, in order to make sure that student receive the most up-to-date and innovative preventative safety education there is.

So let's get started!

THE PROTECT ED™ CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COURSE: A PREDATOR’S BAG OF TRICKS

Out with the old, in with the new! Why “stranger danger” does not keep children safe.

- Children DO talk to strangers, and are often encouraged to do so.
- This rule gives a mixed message to children.
- Strangers that are seeking control of children rarely present themselves as scary or unapproachable.
- This rule causes a fear of all strangers and masks the child’s natural ability to recognize dangerous behavior.
- It is actually the child’s ability to talk to strangers that will help keep them safe.
- Attention should be on “Strange Behavior” and not “Strangers”.

The #1 Safety Rule taught to student under the Protect Ed™ program:

- Never go anywhere with anyone without asking permission first.

Knowing the predator’s tricks.

1. Assistance

Children love to please adults. According to the Protect Ed™ program, this trick allows the predator to approach the child physically as well as opens an opportunity for conversation and is used in the following two ways: A predator may ask for help, or offer help.

Children must be taught that an adult should never ask them for help. If they are approached by someone they do not know and trust, they must not go with them without asking your permission first. This rule is never to be broken.

Notes:

2. Emergency

Predators know that children are taught to follow directions in an emergency.

What if a predator was to tell a child that his/her parent had been in a car accident and was in the hospital? Would the child panic and go with this person?

The Protect Ed™ program discusses with students the various elements of an emergency situation of this kind and what they are expected to do. Students are reminded of the rule to never go anywhere, with anyone, without asking permission first.

Notes:

3. Authority

Children are told from a very young age to listen to adults. But if they are told to do something that feels wrong, would they have the confidence to say “no”?

The Protect Ed™ program teaches children that they have permission to say “no” to people in authority, and that they should tell a trusted adult no matter what.

Notes:

4. Threats

Being threatened with violence is frightening for anyone, even more so for children. A threat is uttered with the intention of making the child do what the predator wants. According to the Protect Ed™ program, children need to understand that a threat is not a real thing happening at that moment. In the case of a predator, a threat is a trick to make children respond quickly and cooperatively.

Because it is a trick, the Protect Ed™ program teaches children that a predator’s threat should never be considered. It explain to children that if a predator threatens to use a weapon to coerce them, the

weapon is meant to intimidate them, but will likely not be used. Above all, students must know that they should not get into a predator's car or go with him/her anywhere.

Instead, the Protect Ed™ program teaches children that they need to make as much noise as they can (even though the predator has warned them not to) and try to get away.

The Protect Ed™ program also explains that when a predator has developed a long-term abusive relationship with a child victim, he/she will at times make threats against the child's family or friends. This is effective for two reasons: the child will do anything to prevent his/her loved ones from being harmed, and by keeping silent, the child will feel that he/she is protecting others. This is often what happens in cases of family sexual abuse, where, for example, the older sister will allow the offender to abuse her thinking/hoping that doing so will prevent her younger sister from being abused as well.

The Protect Ed™ program ensures that students understand that they should tell a trusted adult any abusive relationship that have witnessed or are a victim of and to keep telling, even if it seems as though nobody is listening.

Notes:

5. Name recognition

Many schools, sports teams and other child organizations encourage parents to write the child's name on clothing, shoes etc. to help identify lost items. This is also useful to a predator because he/she can call a child by name to create a false sense of familiarity. The child will question whether he/she should know the individual talking to him/her.

The Protect Ed™ program encourages students that instead of using their name, they could choose a symbol or another identifier that is unique to them.

Notes:
