



# Royal Bahamas Police Force

*Working together for a safe Bahamas*

## Back to School Safety Tips for Parents

**Safe Children are Happy Children. Happy Children are safe Children. As parents and guardians, you play the most important role in your child's wellness. Consider these tips:**

- **Map out with your children a safe way for them to walk to school or to the bus stop.** Avoid busy roads and intersections. Do a trial run with them to point out places they should avoid along the way, such as vacant lots, construction areas, track roads and parks where there aren't many people.
- **Teach children to follow traffic signals and rules when walking.** Stress that they should cross the street at pedestrian crossings or at intersections when it is safe to do so.
- **Encourage children to walk to school or the bus stop with a sibling or friend,** and to wait at bus stops with other children. **Teach children not to talk to strangers,** go anywhere with them, or accept gifts from them without your permission. Tell them that if they see a suspicious stranger hanging around or in their school they should tell an adult. Their teacher or School Liaison Officer.
- **Talk to your children about their day.** Sometimes children will not tell you right away if they are having problems at school. Ask your children if they see anyone bullied, if they are bullied, or if anything else makes them feel uncomfortable. Look for warning signs, such as a sudden drop in grades, loss of friends, or torn clothing.
- **Do not allow your children to bring illegal items to school:** I.E.: Guns, Knives, Matches, Lighters, drugs, etc
- **Teach children to resolve problems without fighting.** Explain that fighting can lead to them getting hurt, hurting someone else, criminal charges or earning a reputation as a bully. Talk to them about other ways they can work out a problem, such as talking it out, walking away, sticking with friends, or telling a trusted adult, a teacher or School Liaison Officer.
- **Do Not Be Afraid to Parent; Know When to Intervene.** Step in and intervene when children exhibit behavior or attitudes that could potentially harm them or others. It's okay to be concerned when you notice warning signs in a child, and it's even more appropriate to do something about those concerns. Concerned parents should seek a diagnosis from a doctor, school counselor, or other mental health professional trained to assess young people.
- **Ask about the safety and emergency plans for your children's school.** How are students and parents involved? What emergencies have been considered and planned for?
- **Help children memorize their phone number and full address,** Street name and house number. Write down other important phone numbers such as your work and cell phone on a card for your children to carry with them.

Police Emergency

**911**

National Crime Prevention Office

**302-8430/1**

[www.royalbahamaspolice.org](http://www.royalbahamaspolice.org)

*"To make The Bahamas a safer place to live, work, visit and play."*

Crime Stoppers

**328-TIPS (8477)**

Family Islands

**(242) 300-8476**