



Corbin & Associates, Inc.

Lesson Plan of the Month
(January 2003)

Topic: Stranger Danger
Target Group: Parents and Guardians
Prepared By: Andy Graziano
Agency: Montclair P.D.
Address: 5111 Benito St. Montclair, CA 91763
Phone: (909) 621-5873

Objectives:

To talk to parents and guardians about the dangers that their children may run into going to or from school. At the end of this talk they will be able to talk with their children and teach them to watch out for strangers and what to do if they are approached by someone.

Introduction:

- A. State your name, department, background and experience
- B. At the end of this presentation they will know:
 - About child abduction
 - How to talk to their children about the danger
 - How to protect their children
 - What to do if the child is abducted

Body:

- A. Protecting your children from strangers
 - 1. Statistics on missing Children
 - 2. Ways to prepare for the worst
 - 3. A.M.B.E.R. Alert
 - 4. Who is a stranger?
 - 5. Code words
 - 6. Steps to teach your children to protect themselves.
 - a. To and from school

B. Statistics on missing children in the United States

1. Am I here to scare you with stats?
2. Why are we here?
3. In 2000 the F.B.I. Reported there were 876,213 missing person reports taken in the U.S.
 - a. They estimated 85% - 90% of those reported were for children
 - A. That breaks down to 750,000 children a year.
 - B. That's 2,100 children per day

C. Statistics on missing children in California

1. 57 Stranger abductions (witnessed, strangers/non family)
2. 90,453 Runaways
3. 388 Lost (strayed away or unknown whereabouts)
4. 2,183 Parental / Family
5. 580 Suspicious circumstances (poss. Abductions)
6. 4,902 Unknown
7. 25 catastrophe (lost in plane, boat or other accidents)
8. **98,588 Total**

D. Statistics on missing children in San Bernardino County, CA

1. The Attorney General's Office reported for 2001
 - a. 10 stranger abductions (Witnessed, strangers/non family)
 - b. 5,027 Runaways
 - c. 13 Lost (strayed away or unknown whereabouts)
 - d. 181 Parental / Family
 - e. 34 Suspicious circumstances (poss. Abductions)
 - f. 211 Unknown
 - g. 2 catastrophe (lost in plane, boat or other accidents)
 - h. **5,478 Total**
2. How does San Bernardino County rank in California?
3. San Bernardino County ranks
 - a. 4th in California for total missing children
 - b. 3rd in California for suspicious circumstances
 - c. 1st in California for witnessed stranger abductions
 - A. Registered sex offenders

- a. Approx. 98,910 in California
- b. Approx. 3,850 in San Bernardino County

E. Ways to prepare for the worst

- 1. Get your child fingerprinted
- 2. Have a Child Identification Card Made
 - a. Can be made at the Montclair Police Department
 - A. Cost approx. \$2.00
- 3. Save some of your child's hair
- 4. Have a recent Photo of your child
- 5. Know your child's friends
 - a. Names, Addresses, and phone numbers
- 6. Know where your child plays
- 7. Keep a mental note of what your child wears **everyday**.

F. What is an A.M.B.E.R. Alert?

America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response Alert, or **AMBER Alert**, is a statewide innovative program that partners California's Law Enforcement community, Media broadcasting agencies and the public in locating abducted children. The goal of AMBER Alert is to provide the public with immediate and up-to-date information about a child abduction via widespread media broadcasts and to solicit help from the public in the safe and swift return of the child.

The State's AMBER Alert is modeled after the AMBER Plan, which was developed in 1996 after nine-year old Amber Hagerman was abducted near her home in Arlington, Texas, and later found murdered. To date, these plans have been instrumental in the successful recovery of at least 20 children nationwide.

The concept of AMBER Alert was first introduced as a pilot program in California in 1999 in Orange County and in 2001 in the Sacramento area, encompassing several counties. In 2002 Assembly Bill 415 (Government Code section 8594) mandated that AMBER Alert Plans be implemented statewide and include specific notification protocols for all communities.

G. Who is a stranger?

1. Does your child know about strangers?
2. Do you feel comfortable letting your child answer the phone or door when they are alone?
 - a. Someone your child does not know.
 - b. You decide who is and is not a stranger
 - c. Explain they come in all shapes and sizes
 - A. Big, Tall, nice clothes, old clothes, even uniforms
 - B. Uniforms can be confusing, ie police officers, fire fighters
 - d. Just because they see the person every day they still can be a stranger. ie the Postman
 - e. Not all strangers are bad

H. Code Words

1. What is a code word?
 - a. It's a secret word only you and your child know
 - b. Used to let your child know that a stranger is ok to go with
 - c. Used incase of emergency. Example – you're hurt or hospitalized
 - d. Make your code word easy for your child to remember
 - e. Change your code word every few months
 - f. If a stranger tries to talk to you child, and they don't know the code word, tell your child to run

I. 10 steps to remember on your way to school

1. Have your child walk or ride to school with a friend
 - a. There is safety in numbers
 - b. Stay in well lit areas
 - c. Don't take short cuts
2. Try to provide supervision
 - a. Consider your Childs age
 - b. Use older siblings or rotate with other parents

3. Don't leave your child at the bus stop alone
 - a. Tell your child if a stranger approaches them get away, and tell a trusted adult

4. Visit your child's bus stop
 - a. Know there bus number
 - b. Know there bus driver

5. Tell your child not to take rides from strangers
 - a. If they don't feel comfortable teach them to say **NO**
 - b. Don't let your child hitchhike

6. If someone follows your child, tell them to get away
 - a. If in a car, have them turn around
 - b. Get to a safe spot
 - c. Have them tell a trusted adult

7. If someone tries to take your child, tell them to get away and yell
 - a. Yell this person is trying to take me. They are not my mom or dad

8. Never leave school with a stranger
 - a. If there is an emergency, remember your code word
 - b. If they don't feel safe, tell an adult

9. Walk your child's route to school
 - a. Point out safe places to go
 - b. Point out landmarks
 - c. Use main routes
 - A. Avoid shortcuts and isolates areas.

10. Remember to practice these safety rules
 - a. Make sure your child understands
 - b. Make the walk to school a fun, safe, and memorable time

Questions:

Answer any questions parents may have.

Sources:

Officer Andy Graziano
5111 Benito Street
Montclair, CA 91763
(909) 621-4771

California Attorney General's Office – <http://caag.state.ca.us>

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children – www.missingkids.com

Federal Bureau of Investigations – www.fbi.gov

National Crime Prevention Council – www.mcgruff.org

Corbin & Associates, Inc.
National Training Corporation
3752 Half Moon Drive
Orlando, FL 32812
Phone # (407) 851-5058
Fax # (407) 855-8962
E-Mail: sroinfo@aol.com
Web Site: <http://www.srotraining.com>