

Dear Family,

As part of the *Second Step* Child Protection Unit, your child is learning important safety skills that will help him or her stay safe from dangerous situations. Your child is learning how to use the **Ways to Stay Safe** to **recognize** when something is unsafe, **report** anything unsafe to an adult, and **refuse** to participate.

You play the most important role in helping your child stay safe. Below are ways you can help your child learn and practice the skills in the Child Protection Unit.

Completing the family safety plan: Home Links 1–5 in the Child Protection Unit have activities to help you and your child create a **family safety plan**. This plan will cover:

- Emergency contacts
- Staying safe on your own
- Refusing unsafe and unwanted touches
- Reporting a broken Private Body Parts Rule, including overcoming barriers to reporting

Work with your child to complete each part and post the plan somewhere in your home where you and your child can see it easily. Use your **family safety plan** regularly to help you talk with your child about how to stay safe both inside and outside your home. Go online to SecondStep.org using Activation Key **CPU5 FAMI LYG5** to learn more about the **family safety plan**, including how to put it together.

Using the Always Ask First Rule: Remind your child to always ask you (or the adult in charge if you are not there) before going somewhere, doing something, or accepting something from someone. Encouraging your child to follow the **Always Ask First Rule** will help him or her stay safe.

Preparing your child for being on his or her own: As children get older they spend more time on their own, with no adult in charge making sure they stay safe. Talk regularly with your child about what he or she needs to do to stay safe when adults aren't around.

- **Buddy system:** Make sure your child walks or buses home with a buddy—another child who can help your child stay safe—and he or she understands both children are responsible for helping each other stay safe.
- **Checking in:** When your child is alone, make sure he or she has a way to contact you and that the two of you have a plan for checking in regularly.
- **Know safe routes:** If your child walks to or from places like school or after-school care alone, talk with him or her about what the safest routes are and make sure your child follows these routes every time he or she is walking alone.

Make sure to join SecondStep.org with the Activation Key **CPU5 FAMI LYG5** to find more information on how you can help keep your child safe from dangerous situations.

Sincerely,

Go online today

SecondStep.org Activation Key:
CPU5 FAMI LYG5