

What can I tell my student that would empower them to feel better about their safety while at school?

- Students can be taught that security is everybody's responsibility, including themselves. Even though they are younger, they should be instructed that if they see something that doesn't seem right they should say something to an adult. For example, they should say something if they see a door at school being propped open or tell someone if a fellow student is making threats about harming themselves or another person.
- You can re-enforce to your student the importance of not propping doors open and not opening a door for an adult trying to enter the building.

What do I tell my student when they ask me what they should do if there is an active shooter in their school?

- The best option in most situations for any elementary student is to hide. That said, talk with your student about where they might hide. Guide them toward choices that would totally hide them from view of the person causing harm and remind them to stay there until somebody they know and trusts tells them it is ok to come out.
- Tell your student that help will be on the way and they only need to be brave for a few minutes. Being brave is trying not to yell or cry and listening to the teacher and doing what they say.

For further questions or concerns please contact:

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# Talking to Your Student About School Safety



*Grades K-2nd  
Guide*

## What should I share with my student when discussing active shooter incidents and their safety while at school?

- You may tell your student that there are a few times where a bad person will make a bad choice to hurt people at schools and other places. These bad people are one reason we have safety drills and practice what to do if this would happen at one of our schools, but the chances of this happening are very remote.
- You should tell your student that schools are one of the safest places they can be. School shootings are on the news so much because they occur very rarely compared to the number of schools that are open and safe every day, so it may seem that the chances of a school shooting are really high, but this is not the case.
- You should share with your student that there are many people who work for the district that have a great deal of experience in keeping people safe and these people are working to make sure everyone is safe in our schools each and every day.

## What can I teach my student to better prepare them should an active shooter incident take place in their school?

- Teaching self-awareness habits to your student is probably the most important proactive step in keeping them safe during any critical incident.

Self-awareness is being aware of your surroundings and having thought through what you might do in a crisis before a crisis occurs.

Talking with your student about self-awareness does not have to be scary and can be practiced on a frequent basis. For example, your student strays from you while in a store and they quickly run back and find you. This a perfect opportunity to practice self-awareness by asking a few questions, Ask, if you came back and couldn't find me, what would you do? Who would you go to for help? etc. Let your student come up with their own answers and then guide them with "what ifs" to other acceptable options.

There are daily opportunities to practice self-awareness with your students and the topics are endless. Lessons might include a stranger danger, witnessing an act of bullying, being at a friend's house when there is a weapon not secured, inappropriate touching, etc.

