



Global Children's Fund

HOME INVASIONS

Important Note: This is but one small part of child safety, not meant to be complete safety education. Please visit us online at WWW.KEEPYOURCHILDSAFE.ORG, for a variety of **free book downloads** which cover all area's of Child Safety. This safety Alert may be reprinted and distributed for all community applications.

SAFETY ALERT---SAFETY ALERT---SAFETY ALERT---SAFETY ALERT---SAFETY ALERT---SAFETY ALERT

Home invasions have made the news recently as a frightening form of child abduction. This type of abduction is not new, but it is starting to become more common as traditional forms of child abduction are becoming less effective.

This type of child snatching has parents panicked and paranoid. After all, where is your child safe if not in their own home? However, very few parents understand that with a little safety training, this type of abduction can usually be prevented just as easily as other forms of child abduction.

How it works

An abductor will sneak into the child's home at night, attempting to gain access to the child. He or she will then either threaten the child with harm, or talk the child into coming with them. The child is snatched out of their bed, usually without a sound or commotion, and unfortunately, is rarely seen alive again.

What it depends on

This type of abduction, is obviously a stealth abduction. It is secretive, quiet, and depends on the child's compliance, in one form or another. They need silent kids, period.

Defeating it

Noise. Plain and simple. Compliance gets a child nowhere, they need to yell and make a ruckus. If a person did not intend to physically harm the child, this will just scare them off. Even if they did intend to harm the child, it is highly unlikely, that in the commotion, the abductor will choose to kill the child on the spot as opposed to run off. Silence with kids is death. Yelling and screaming is life.

Training your kids

It is important that you sit down and talk with them about this type of abduction. Tell them that if anyone ever awakes them in the middle of the night, they are to scream as loud as they can and call for help. They need to scream, kick the walls, knock over furniture, make as large of a ruckus as they can in order to yell for their parents and try to get away. If the person grabs them and try's to run off, they should hang onto doors, windows, whatever they can to resist.

Teach children to do this even if the person says they will kill them if they make noise. Explain to them the reality outlined earlier, that they are just saying that to get compliance and will probably run off if you make noise. If you go with them, they might kill you anyway.

A parents role

If at all possible, encourage children, especially younger children, to sleep with their doors open at night. Parents should also keep their doors open, (when not engaged in extra curricular activities) so that they have a means to hear their child if they happen to scream in the middle of the night. Not only does this ensure you hear them in the rare event that someone is in their room, but it will also come in handy for the everyday night terrors and other needs that your little ones require your assistance for.

Friends don't come a knocking in the night...

What many parents don't seem to realize, more likely of a scenario than threats, is that the child willingly walks out with the abductor because it is someone the child knows. Around 60% of all children murdered are taken by a close friend or relative.

It is important to teach children to never go anywhere with anybody except their parents in the middle of the night. If someone awakes you at night, it doesn't matter who they are, you scream as loud as you can, and you get your mom and dad, no exceptions. Teach children that there is never any circumstance where someone they know would have a need to enter their room or retrieve them at night without their parents knowing.

Additional resources

Our children's safety book "Something Scary Happened", covers this type of abduction and many more, and helps parents teach these important safety concepts in ways that children will understand and not be frightened by. Please visit us online at www.keepyourchildsafe.org, for additional safety tools on this and a variety of other safety topics.