

LET'S BE SAFE!

GAME



How To Play It Safe!

A PARENT'S GUIDE

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READ BEFORE PLAYING

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WHAT DOES IT TEACH?

We're all concerned about our children's personal safety. **Let's Be Safe** helps you teach your children how to handle potentially difficult situations...in a non-threatening and fun manner.

The people at Milton Bradley, and its parent company, Hasbro, Inc., know that sometimes the easiest way to learn is by playing games. Milton Bradley designed this game so your children will have fun playing it, while they learn how to deal with hazardous situations at home, in the neighborhood and at school.

The game cards describe different situations in four main categories:

- dangers with strangers
- safety at home and in the neighborhood
- sexual molestation
- use of drugs and alcohol

Some of the situations described in the game help you reaffirm basic values you've already taught your children. Some deal with responsibilities towards siblings, and respect for other people's property. And some get into peer pressure problems.

All of the situations described in the game are presented in a non-threatening way. That's because the main objective of **Let's Be Safe** is really to help you discuss these sensitive areas with your children. You'll be giving them practice and confidence in their abilities to handle tough situations before your children are confronted by them in real life.

The basic point is to make your children aware—not afraid.

YOU'RE IMPORTANT

Your input as a parent is what really makes this game effective. So always play it with your children. It gives you a chance to talk with them about how they should act in various situations. Your constant reinforcement and guidance are what really help.

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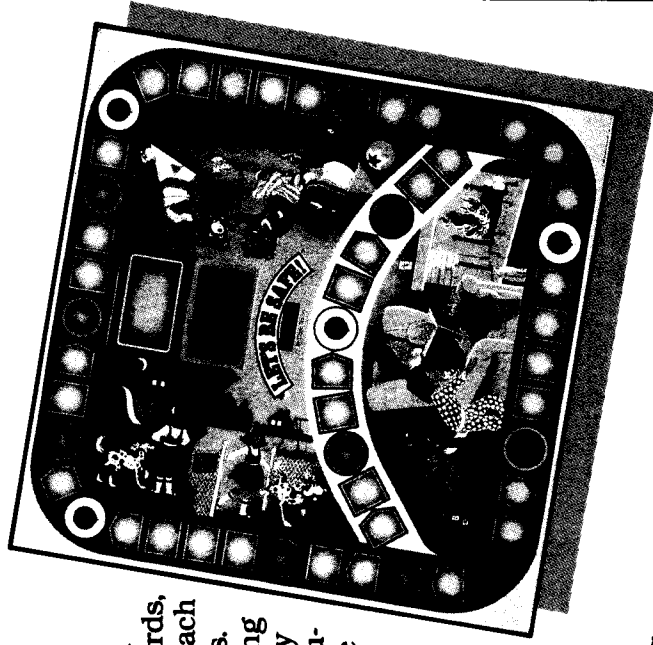
BEFORE YOU PLAY

Look over all the game cards. There may be some that you think aren't appropriate for your child right now. How can you tell? Well, think about your child's age and stage of development. After all, you know your child better than anyone else. You can decide what information he or she can handle at this time.

Ask yourself these questions: Can my child identify with this situation? Will my child be able to understand the solution? If the answers are no, simply remove the card from the playing deck and save it until your child is older.

THE GAME ITSELF

It's a simple path game. In other words, the first player to reach home safely, wins. Players move along the gameboard by matching the situation cards to the correct solution cards. Complete game rules are shown on the cardboard platform.

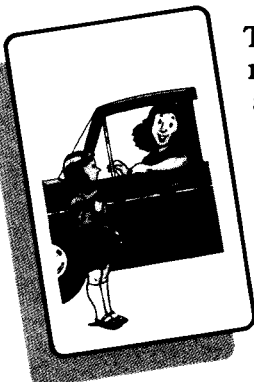


THE CARDS

Players match situation and solution cards to move ahead. The next page shows an example of one match.

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The situation card reads: A stranger asks you to come into her car.

The solution card reads: Say "No!" Don't go near the car. Tell a grown-up.



At first glance some of the solution cards may seem to apply to more than one situation card. That's because they deal with a common theme—such as removing yourself from danger by leaving a situation and telling a grown-up. But each solution card is specific to a situation. There's always a clue that lets you know which situation it applies to. For instance:



The situation card reads: You are in a park and someone approaches you and acts strangely.

The correct solution card reads: Stay away from the person. Leave the park. Tell a grown-up.



The word PARK in the solution card is the clue. Visual clues, as the repetition of similar settings and characters, are also present.

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Explain that, for the game, each situation has only one correct answer. But in real life, your children may have other options as well, such as calling for help. Go over other options for action in different situations with your children. Get their ideas, and let them know which solutions would work and which wouldn't.

WILD CARDS

These cards say "Ask Mom or Dad." They can be used to match any situation card. Encourage your children to try to figure out the correct answer, before they pick one of these cards. And if they do pick a wild card, take the time to discuss with them what the correct response should be.

Repeated playing will eventually teach your children what the correct response is. They'll start to remember what it should be, and it may become instinctive in actual situations.



BLANK CARDS

You can create your own situations and write them on these cards. Use names and places your child is familiar with.

They can reinforce a general idea, like not doing what a stranger asks. Or be specific to your family, like "What do you do if Billy starts crying?"

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Make sure your children understand who is a stranger. Ask questions like "Is Dr. Jones (your pediatrician) a stranger?" (No.) "Is the man who lives in the white house on the corner a stranger?" (Yes.)

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- Encourage your children to ask "Why?" after they make a correct match. For instance:

Why can't I eat food I find?

Why can't I take a ride with a stranger?

Why is it bad to smoke marijuana cigarettes?

If they don't ask, ask them. The more you discuss the reason for the action, the more they'll remember it.

- Some of the solution cards may seem to your children to contradict what you've taught them. For example, children are usually taught to obey adults and be submissive. This advice, of course, can make them vulnerable in certain situations. You'll need to clarify when it's appropriate not to be submissive, and why.

- One of the cards deals with keeping secrets. Talk to your children about the difference between good and bad secrets. Examples of good secrets:

A surprise birthday party

A Mother's Day gift

Examples of bad secrets:

"Let's not tell anyone where we're going."

"Don't tell anybody what we did."

- Some of the cards deal with home safety. Use them to talk about your home. For instance, "What would we do if we had a fire here?" (You may even decide to create a fire plan with your children and hold practice fire drills.) Explain what your children should do if their clothes catch fire. They should remember to stop, drop and roll.

You may want to get more information on child safety. There are excellent books available on the market and in your library. Local police and fire departments are also great sources.