

C.A.E.S.A.R.

Canine Aided Emergency Search And Rescue

DOG AWARENESS



LOST CHILD PREPAREDNESS

C.A.E.S.A.R.

Canine Aided Emergency Search And Rescue, Inc.
666 Fredonia Road Greenville, PA 16125 (724) 475-4647

Dear Sir or Madam,

C.A.E.S.A.R. is a volunteer nonprofit charitable organization, founded in August of 1990, for the purpose of supporting emergency search and rescue efforts by providing municipal, state, and federal agencies with highly trained search and rescue personnel. Each member is financially responsible for his or her own equipment and supplies. They strive for perfection within a field that does not provide any monetary remuneration for their service or time.

All of the organization's members believe strongly in the service they provide and constantly place the victims needs well above their own. Any time of day or night, in any type of weather or terrain, a person in need can count on C.A.E.S.A.R. to respond. With little sleep and a great deal of compassion, the unit's motivation is held high with the possibility of rescuing an injured hiker, a disoriented patient, or a frightened young child that has wandered away from home. The looks and sounds of happiness when the victim is reunited with family or loved ones are thanks enough.

As well as being available for emergency situations on a twenty-four-hour basis, C.A.E.S.A.R. performs a variety of educational programs for public and private organizations. Each program has been designed to provide quality education on matters related to search and rescue.

This booklet has been designed to provide educational information relevant to the safety of children. If used properly, the contents may one-day keep your child safe from harm or even save their life.

Sincerely,

John A. Libonati
President

The parents are momentarily distracted. Their young daughter wanders out of the yard and can't seem to find her way back home. The parents panic and frantically search for their child. Is the child lost, or has she been abducted? The parents suddenly begin to feel helpless and neglectful.

Dear Parents,

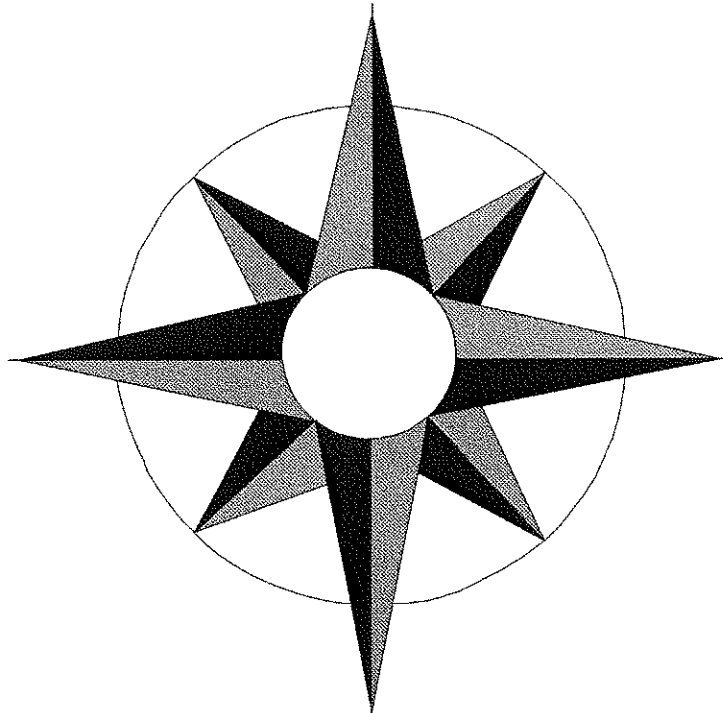
Though the odds of a child wandering off and becoming lost is very minimal, it does happen. If it didn't, C.A.E.S.A.R. would not exist. C.A.E.S.A.R. is one of the most highly requested search and rescue organizations within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and has been involved in numerous search and rescue missions since its inception.

If the unfortunate event occurs and your child becomes lost or is discovered missing, do you know what to do? Do you know who to call? Have you suddenly become a bad parent?

The following information has been included to help you find the answers to these questions and more! It has been designed to provide recommended "tips" that should be used to educate children before the problem has a chance to occur.

Due to the amount of material enclosed within the following outlines, it is strongly recommended that you attempt to educate your children in short repetitive intervals. All of the information at once will surely be much too cumbersome for most young children.

We are very pleased to have the opportunity to share our knowledge with you and hope that the information will prove to be beneficial. After all, our most successful searches, are the ones that do not occur in the first place.

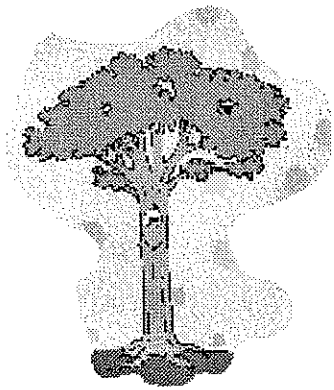


Lost Child Preparedness

The following outline has been designed to educate children how not to get lost, what to do if they ever do become lost, and methods to increase their chances of being found quickly. We hope that your child will never need to use the following information, but if you reinforce the material and ideas enclosed in this text, it may help them to remember some facts that will make search and rescue efforts shorter and even more important . . . Successful!

PLEASE NOTE: Some of the following material should not be taught to young children. Children should only be given the information considered safe for their age level.

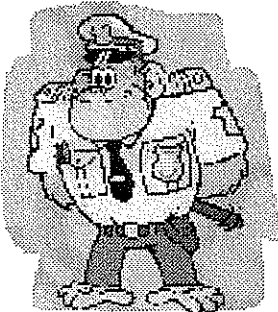
TIPS FOR CHILDREN



1. **Always carry a whistle** on camping trips, hikes, picnics, or family outings at the local park. The sound of a whistle can carry much further than a child's voice.

2. **Hug a tree** when you're lost in a park or wooded area. It's very scary to be alone. Hugging and talking to a tree may calm children and prevent them from panicking. Hugging the tree will also help the child to stay warm and dry during poor or inclement weather. Children that stay in one place, are less likely to become injured and will be found more quickly. Reinforce that the child should never climb the tree or seek a tree that is located in an open field during an electrical storm.

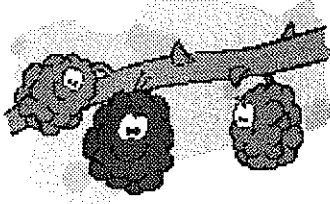
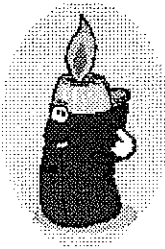
3. **Find a cashier or security officer** if you're lost in a store. Being separated from your parents in a crowded place is very frightening. Children should be taught to seek the assistance of a store employee immediately after becoming separated. A child that is moving to a destination is less likely to be approached by a stranger. An emotional, stationary child that is alone is an easy target and will accept the assistance of anyone that will acknowledge his or her problem.



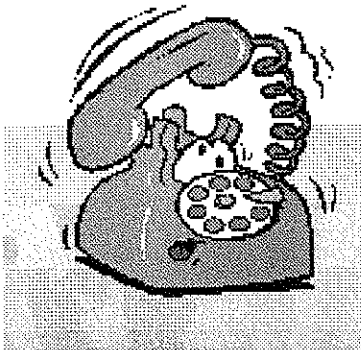
4. **Try to be big and bright** so that people can see you. People are hard to see when they are wearing dark clothing in the woods. Wear bright colored clothes when going on hikes or family outings. Hug a tree near a clearing if possible. Lay down in the clearing if a helicopter or airplane flies over you.



5. **You have a lot of friends looking for you.** There are hundreds of professional and volunteer searchers who charge nothing for their time and do it because they care about you. *All children should be taught to avoid strangers that approach them, even if the stranger is wearing a uniform, or knows the child's name. We at C.A.E.S.A.R. teach children to use a CODE WORD or PASS WORD with any approaching person that they do not know (discussed later in this booklet).*



TIPS FOR PARENTS



6. **Your parents will be happy to see you** when you are found. Some children avoid searchers because they think their parents will be mad at them for getting lost. Reinforce that anyone can get lost, adult or child.
 7. **There are no animals that want to hurt you.** If you hear strange noises around you, yell and clap your hands. If it's a searcher, they will find you. If it is an animal, it will run away. Animals, in the woods, are much more afraid of us than we are of them. Children are very fearful of being alone, especially at night. They may need very strong reassurance that they must remain in one place.
 8. **Beware of berries and fire.** Children must be taught never to start fires or to eat wild berries from bushes or plants. Fire may cause harm to the child and their surroundings. Eating berries may make the child very ill.
 9. **Never go alone** on hikes or outings. Children should be taught to stay in groups and to never travel alone.
-
1. **Try to keep them from getting lost**, which may be impossible. Children are easily distracted in both populated and unpopulated areas. Teach your children to stay with you. Picking out a prominent landmark such as a hill, or noting the direction of the sun may prevent disorientation.
 2. **Footprint your child** by having them step on a piece of aluminum foil. This exercise takes only a few minutes and could help trackers to separate your child's track from hundreds of others in the area, and may quickly determine the child's direction of travel.
 3. **Call for help quickly**, if your child is missing. The size of a search area increases dramatically over a short period. Rapid response is critically important. A call to officials that is later canceled, gives search personnel practice and helps them to stay alert. No one will get angry or think you are over reacting if you call for help and then suddenly discover that it is not needed.
 4. **Stay available for interviewing.** Search personnel need to have you present. All personal information will be kept confidential. It is important to be honest, open, and as accurate as possible.
 5. **Who should I call?** In the unfortunate event of a missing person, the local municipal emergency responders, such as, the police and fire department must be initially contacted for assistance. C.A.E.S.A.R. is a non-municipal organization that supports governmental agencies with highly trained search and rescue personnel and must be invited by an official member of the organizing governmental agency. C.A.E.S.A.R. may not respond at the direct request of the family or other member of the general public.

MAKE A CODE WORD

Parental Guidance
Suggested

Elmo

Popcorn

1. A code word is a secret word between a child and their legal guardian. Children should be taught that the code word will be a good and very special secret that must never be revealed.
2. The code word should be created so that the child will always remember it, even in very stressful situations.
3. Your child should be instructed to ask for the code word from "anyone" who claims they have been sent to pick them up.
4. It may be appropriate to teach your child that it is acceptable to seek the assistance of a police officer, store clerk, etc., if they should ever become lost or separated from you. However, they should be taught to ask for the code word if **approached** by anyone, even if they are in uniform. If the individual has been sent to find your child, they should already know the code word. If they do not know the code word, they will surely be able to obtain it.
5. If your child is ever approached by someone who does not know the code word, they should be taught to seek assistance immediately by someone that they are familiar with (teacher, neighbor, etc.).
6. Your child should also be taught to repeat one phrase very loudly if someone is attempting to take them against their will. That phrase is: No you are not my parent!
7. Lastly, the code word must be changed if it is ever used.



Canine Awareness

Children must be taught how to interact with familiar and unfamiliar dogs. Dog bites are the most common source of animal injuries to children and most often involve a dog to which the child is already familiar. Dog bites can result in severe injuries to young children and often occur due to an inappropriate act, by a child, which the dog considers to be threatening. Injuries also occur due to a lack of understanding, by the dog, on how to interact with small children. Therefore, it is imperative not only to teach our children to respect dogs, but also to train our dogs to respect our children. If the following material and ideas are reinforced, it may help children and adults, to remember some facts that will reduce the risks of being injured by both familiar and unfamiliar dogs.

MEETING A DOG



1. **Ask permission** before meeting any dog. Children should be taught to ask the permission of the dog's owner, as well as their parents or guardian before meeting any dog that they do not know.
2. **Saying hello** to a dog for the first time must be positive and non-threatening. Children must be instructed to introduce themselves to unfamiliar dogs by using the following method:

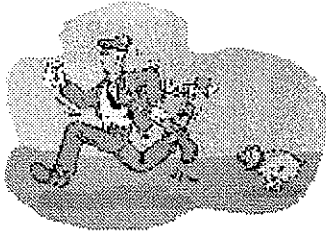
- Approach the dog by walking slowly (never run)
- Tuck the fingers of one hand (making a fist)
- Reach the fist toward the dog's nose (slowly)
- Allow the dog to sniff the fist (this is how a dog says hello)
- Pet the dog under the chin (softly)

3. **It's okay to be afraid!** Some children are frightened by the presence of dogs. Children must be allowed to be afraid and must never be forced to meet a dog to whom they are uncomfortable or unfamiliar. Children must be instructed to do the following if they do not wish to meet an approaching familiar or unfamiliar dog:

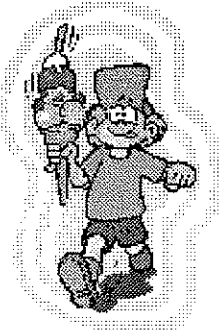
- Place both arms down against the body (never raise the arms)
- Look away and **do not** stare into the dog's eyes
- Stop whatever activity is being performed (playing, eating, etc.)
- **Slowly** walk away (never run)
- Tell an adult (that there is a dog present)

A COUPLE OF TIPS

1. **Be friendly** with all dogs. Children must learn not to perform acts that may frighten or hurt any dog, such as, pulling on ears, tails or tongues, petting on top of the head or back, putting fingers in the ears, eyes, or nose.



2. **A dog may jump** to investigate what a child is holding. Children must always be taught to keep their hands down and to drop whatever they are holding, such as, a ball, toy, or food. If a child is attempting to keep something from an unfamiliar or familiar dog, the dog may feel as though the child is inviting play.



3. **Never run** away or toward a dog. Running away from a dog may reinforce the game of chase. Running toward a dog may make them fearful and may force them to guard against danger. Trying to frighten or scare any dog may surely lead to trouble.

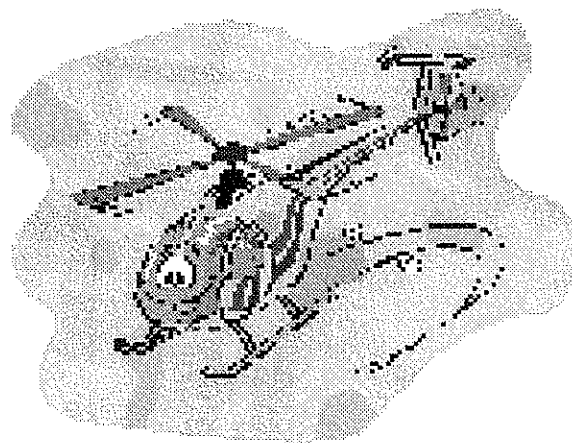
4. **Feeding a familiar dog** may be acceptable. However, feeding a strange dog must never be allowed. Children must understand that sharing their picnic lunch with an approaching unfamiliar dog is not a good idea. Children must be taught to put all food down and to slowly walk away, from where they were eating, if an unfamiliar dog approaches.

5. **Confined and barking** dogs should never be teased or bothered. Children must respect every dog's territory, as well as privacy. Teasing a confined dog will lead to agitation and most often trouble.



6. **Sick or injured dogs** are often very frightened. Children must learn to never bother a dog that is hurt or ill. Even the most friendly familiar dog may become agitated if they are sick or injured.

7. **Tell your parents** if a dog hurts you. Children should always alert their parents or guardian to any injury sustained by a dog, no matter how severe. It is also imperative to know what dog caused any injury.



Color me!



Please help those who cannot help themselves!!!

C.A.E.S.A.R. needs your help! Due to our organization's growth and the rising demand for our services, we are in need of increasing our supply of technical equipment. It has become essential to request support from the community. Although we regret having to ask for donations, it is necessary in order for us to meet our needs.

YES, I would like to help C.A.E.S.A.R. meet its needs!

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$5.00 \$10.00 \$15.00 \$20.00 Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

C.A.E.S.A.R. - caring for emergency search and rescue needs. Please make contributions payable to:
C.A.E.S.A.R., Inc., 666 Fredonia Road Greenville, PA 16125

C.A.E.S.A.R. is an all-volunteer nonprofit charitable organization. Questions or comments welcome.
(724) 475-4647 - Business hours - Monday through Thursday 6pm to 10pm.

UNIT MEMBERS STATEMENT

On July 19, 1991, a two-year-old child became lost after following his family dog into the woods and was found fourteen hours later, safe and unharmed . . .

On December 19, 1993, a seventy-eight-year-old woman strayed from her home and was reunited with family ten hours later, cold but uninjured . . .

On April 18, 1995, a thirty-three-year-old woman became lost after wandering off into very rugged terrain and was found twenty-two hours later, injured but alive . . .

On March 8, 1997, two young fishermen drowned when their boat capsized and were recovered sixteen hours later, putting an end, and giving closer, to their families' unfortunate tragedy . . .

On November 29, 1999, a forty-year-old hunter became lost after wandering outside of his familiar hunting area and was found twenty-three hours later, cold and confused but alive.

All of the above stories are true and all have one thing in common. In each of these cases, dog teams and search team personnel provided by Canine Aided Emergency Search And Rescue (C.A.E.S.A.R.) assisted in the efforts to locate them.

C.A.E.S.A.R. is one of the only search and rescue units of its type that utilizes in-depth training and testing standards for its members. All of the organization's members must complete a series of rigorous testing scenarios prior to becoming operational and must also maintain a minimum of thirty hours training per month. Every unit member must obtain numerous certifications related to search and rescue, as well as maintain proficiency in orienteering, wilderness survival, and emergency medical treatment. Each member is financially responsible for his or her team's gear and personal supplies without any type of monetary remuneration for their services and time.

Some members of C.A.E.S.A.R. must also assume the added responsibility of a canine partner and the two must work as a team with the ability to understand each other in-depth and without question. The search dog is a valued member of the handler's family, and he regards all people as his friends.

Training in search and rescue is no easy task. It takes a great deal of time and effort to provide the types of knowledge and understanding required to design a search strategy and to train a canine partner. The need of exposure to various training situations is imperative for all involved.

If you should have any questions, or if you are in need of any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience.

Respectfully,

The C.A.E.S.A.R. Unit