

Instinct Scenarios

The concept of instincts is difficult for children to understand. Rehearsing the following “What If” scenarios with your child will help them practice how to safely respond to situations that present safety risks.

- 1. Quinn is home alone when a woman bangs on the door and screams that there has been an accident outside. She screams to Quinn to open the door so she can call 911. What should Quinn’s instincts tell her to do?**

ANSWER: Quinn’s instincts should tell her that the situation is not safe. She should never answer the door for anyone when home alone unless she is expecting them. She should call her parents to let them know what is happening. The woman can go to her neighbour’s house where there is an adult available to help her.

- 2. Juan is shopping at the mall with a friend. A man dressed in a uniform tells Juan to come with him because he has been caught shoplifting. Juan knows that he has not done anything wrong, but the man tells him to follow him anyway. What should Juan’s instincts tell him to do?**

ANSWER: Juan’s instincts should tell him that the situation is not safe. He should not go anywhere without his parents being contacted first. Juan should tell the man that he is calling his parents and the man can speak to them about any problems first before he goes anywhere with him.

- 3. Jan is home alone when a man knocks on the door. She looks out a window and sees that it is the gas meter reader. What should Jan’s instincts tell her?**

ANSWER: Jan’s instincts should tell her that the situation is not safe. She should never answer the door and never let anyone in when she is home alone unless her parents have given her permission. The gas meter can be checked at a time when adults are home.



- 4. Dallas is walking home from school one day when it begins to rain. A man and a woman pull up in a car and offer Dallas a ride home. Dallas knows that she has seen them before in her neighbourhood, but she hasn't checked with her parents about going with them. What should Dallas' instincts tell her?**

ANSWER: Dallas' instincts should tell her that the situation is not safe. She should know "If Asked to Go and Your Parents Don't Know, SHOUT NO." She does not have permission from her parents so she shouldn't go with them.

- 5. Anna is inside her house alone. A man knocks on the door and tells her to open the door — there is a gas leak in the neighbourhood. What do Anna's instincts tell her?**

ANSWER: Anna's instincts should tell her that the situation is not safe. She should not open the door for anyone when she is home alone. She should phone her parents, neighbours or someone else who is on her emergency phone list who can check on the problem.

- 6. Matteo scored a goal during a hockey game. When he got back to the bench his coach patted his helmet and said "Nice Job!"**

ANSWER: Matteo's instincts should tell him that the situation is okay. The coach's response is appropriate for congratulating Matteo on the goal.