



Safe Kids DeKalb County has some safety tips for *Pokémon GO* Gamers



Safe Kids DeKalb County realizes that *Pokémon GO* is an excellent opportunity to bond with your kids and get in a little exercise, but we want you to stay safe. Here are a few tips to keep you safe while you enjoy your *Pokémon GO* adventures.



1. Be aware of your surroundings and watch where you are going. Make sure your kids know to pay attention to where they are walking. They may need to use a phone to find the Pokémon, but they also need to use their eyes to see where they're going. Get into the habit of always looking up while you are on the phone. If people see you looking distracted, they know they have a perfect opportunity to take advantage of you or your kids.



2. Make sure somebody knows where you are going. Make sure your kids know how far they can go. Check in with them every once in a while to see where they are. The nature of *Pokémon GO* is that Pidgeys, Zubats and Weedles keep popping up on the map, a little farther away and a little farther away. That means they could see another Pokémon just a little farther off and venture away. Soon enough, they have wandered too far into unsafe territory. Keep an eye on them. Make sure they stay close to home.



3. If you play at night, only walk in well-lit areas. Pokémon pops up everywhere, at all hours. There are OK places to find Pokémon, and there are no-go spots, too. Kids should know it's fine to find Pokémon in the park or on the street, but don't go into a stranger's house, stay away from the boarded-up building and please do not hop fences. They should stick to places where they can be seen. With some Pokémon coming out after dark, it's also good to wear reflective or bright clothing starting with evening hours. Capturing a Drowzee is not worth getting hit by a car.



4. Do not go out alone. Always take a friend or a parent. Kids should not be wandering around alone, so send them out with a friend or in a group. Better yet parents, you can grab your own phone and go get a few Pidgeys for yourself. It is an easy game to play, it is great exercise and it could be a fun bonding experience with your kids.



5. Do not drive a vehicle, ride a bicycle, or skateboard while playing. Police departments have issued safety warnings about the game, including some things that were covered above. First, hunt Pokémon on foot. People have gotten into accidents. You should not text and drive. You definitely should not play Pokémon and drive. People have been mugged and robbed while playing, so caution your kids about going places that are not well populated or getting lured into a bad situation.

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