

What can I tell my student that would empower them to feel better about their safety while at school?

- Students can be taught that security is everybody's responsibility, including themselves.
- Share with your student that most active shooters will conduct surveillance and make detail plans on how best to get into a school. They will notice if doors are being propped open or left unlocked. Tell them to never prop open a door or let someone in from the outside.
- Most school shooters make comments, give clues or give warnings to their friends prior to committing the act. Tell your student that if they hear or see something, they should report it immediately. They can tell an adult or use the SPRIGEO website to report their concerns.



Talking to Your Student About School Safety

For further questions or concerns please contact:
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*Middle School
Guide*

What should I share with my student when discussing active shooter incidents and their safety while at school?

- You may want to share with your student that unfortunately, there are a few people in our world that choose to harm others. There are not many of these people and it is very unlikely that your student will ever encounter one, but they should be prepared just in case they do.
- You should tell your student that, statistically, schools are one of the safest places they can be and listening to and actively participating in the various safety drills throughout the year only makes them safer.
- Ask your student if they can share some of the many things in their school that are there to make them safe. If they can't, give them an assignment to look around or ask a school staff person about safety protocols. Ask them if they have met and know the name of their school security officer. Encourage them to interact with the officer on a frequent basis.

What do I tell my student when they ask me what they should do if there is an active shooter in their school?

- Share with your student that if an active shooter situation did occur in their school, they should look for and closely follow the directions of school staff. Tell them that all staff members receive regular training on how best to survive an active shooter situation.
- Tell your student that if there is not a staff member nearby to provide them instruction, then they will need to think for themselves. The only three options during an active shooter situation are to run, hide or fight – and fight should be the last option.
- Tell your student that if they hide, the best choice is to hide in a room where the door can be closed and locked. They should attempt to barricade the door, shut off the lights and be as quiet as possible.
- Share with your student that if they choose to run, that they have permission to leave the building by whatever means possible and run until they are completely off school property.

What can I teach my student to better prepare them should an active shooter incident take place in their school?

- Teaching self-awareness habits to your student is probably the most important proactive step in keeping them safe during any critical incident. Self-awareness means being aware of your surroundings and having thought through what you might do in a crisis before a crisis occurs.
- Learning self-awareness takes practice and you can help by asking your student “what if” questions on a frequent basis. For example, the next time you are seated in a restaurant, ask your student what would you do if you were sitting here by yourself and a large disturbance broke out at a nearby table? What if someone in the disturbance produced a gun? What if the disturbance was taking place near the front door so you were not able to exit? Listen to your student and then guide them to the best choices and have them come up with multiple options.