

OPERATION SAFE CHILD



THE ANSWER TO PREVENTING COMMUNITY GANG CRIMES

Child Safety • Crime Prevention • Character Development

Especially Developed for

Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview

Elementary School District #89

A Non-Profit 501C3 Educational Organization

Dr. Wylmarie N. Sykes, CEO. Founder

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A Community Is Determined By The Way It Treats Its Young People

A community is determined by the way it treats its young people. Regardless of the shortcomings of others, the parents, the schools, and community agencies, much can be done to turn a community around. Turning a gang and drug infested community around can be done by educating young people to meet their present safety challenges, to overcome criminal influences, and to acquire good character habits that will help them to become successful, productive, and wealthy adults.

Maywood's Mayor, Henderson Yarbrough and the Maywood Police Department Officers and Chief Tim Curry cooperated with Operation Safe Child community volunteers, This joint effort worked with District # 89 school officials, principals, and teachers to bring the Operation Safe Child program to all fourth grade students in the six elementary schools within this community. Thus far, the Operation Safe Child program has been utilized for four years. Over the four years, a total of 2200 students received 20 weeks of instruction in child safety, crime prevention, character development, and motivation to attend college.

With this effort, this community has severely diminished the flow of young people toward gangs, criminality, and street violence. As well, we have increased the likelihood of more young people to attend college and thus bring wealth into the community.

Dr. Wylmarie N. Sykes, Founder and CEO

Operation Safe Child

The Purposes of Operation Safe Child

Operation Safe Child was created and developed to reduce crime in the community. Operation Safe Child was created and developed to assist in the educational, moral, economic, and ethical development of young African-American children and other at risk youth to stay on the right side of the law, to grow, and to become positive, successful citizens.

Additionally, the goals include:

- ❖ Increasing student achievement by reducing student disruptive behaviors
- ❖ Helping children develop critical thinking in regard to harmful activities
- ❖ Reducing the crime index in the community
- ❖ Saving tax dollars and reducing property losses by decreasing criminal activity
- ❖ Bringing law enforcement, fire, and paramedic personnel into the classroom so that school children can get acquainted with them and learn their values and career paths

Program Implementation

Operation Safe Child presents approximately ten 45 minute teaching sessions and culminating parties for all fourth graders each semester in each of six Maywood elementary Schools.

Operation Safe Child has served approximately 2200 mostly fourth, but also fifth through eighth grade students for the past four years. This is the fifth year of this program.

The Operation Safe Child first semester topics include standard police presentations and lessons given by Maywood Police Officers and Operation Safe Child Advisory Members.

First Semester Topics Include:

Stranger Danger,

Gang Facts,

Drug Facts,

How to Become a Millionaire,

Appropriate Interactions with Police,

Crime Scene Investigations,

Bullying,

Conflict Resolution,

Anger Management

Character Development,

A, B, C, Guidelines for Students.

Home Alone Safety

The Operation Safe Child second semester topics include character development presentations and lessons given by Operation Safe Child Advisory Members.

Second Semester Topics Include:

Honesty,

Promise Keeping & Punctuality,

Law Abidance,

Integrity,

Loyalty & Concern for Others,

Respect & Fairness,

Courage,

Obedience to Parents, Teachers & Police,

Working for Excellence,

Accountability & Responsibility.

Stranger Danger: Avoiding Abduction



Unfortunately some dangerous predators have attempted to abduct or kidnap some of our children. Therefore, students have to be warned.

Things to know:

1. Stay away from strangers.
2. Do not take candy or money from stranger.
3. Do not talk to strangers.
4. If a stranger tries to talk to you, run away fast.
5. Never get into a stranger's car or van.
6. If a stranger follows you, go to a safe house and ask them to call 911.
7. If a stranger tries to grab you, kick, bite, scratch, and do anything you can to get away.
8. Memorize the stranger's appearance, the color and type of car and the license plate number.
9. Tell your parents and the police.
10. Always tell your parents if anyone tries to touch you wrongly.
11. Walk in safe places.
12. Walk to and from school in groups or with your parents.

13. Do not walk through alleys or dangerous places.
14. Stay away from trouble.
15. If you see trouble ahead such as strangers, gang members, or illegal drug sellers, cross to the other side of the street. But, look both ways first.
16. If you have trouble with strangers or bullies, tell your teacher or principal and ask them to walk with you.
17. When you are afraid, tell your parents and ask them to walk with you.
18. If you feel you are in danger, call the Police at 911.

**From the Stranger Danger remarks at the Operation Safe Child Sessions by Maywood Police Department, Detective Elijah Willis*

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SAMPLE INSTRUCTION

Gang Facts



1. A person that joins a gang can expect to be picked up by police and arrested within six months.
2. People are asked to join gangs in order for the gangs to make money off of them. People are recruited to join gangs so that gangs can put them out on the street to sell illegal drugs.
3. Drug pushers do not earn big money. People on the street selling drugs earn about \$ 3.50 per hour. Wal-Mart and McDonalds workers earn \$7.25 to \$8.00 per hour. In

other words, the lowest paid legal workers earn twice as much as illegal drug pushers and they don't have to go to jail for it.

4. Wearing a hat backward and tilted to one side is a gang sign and can get a person beaten up or shot because they are showing wrong gang signs. In other words, wear your hat straight and your pants up.
5. Gangs tend to recruit people who drop out of school or who are loners or who have been abused and who are very angry.
6. People who join gangs give away their future opportunities. They go to jail, get prison records, and then are prevented from getting good paying jobs.
7. Joining a gang causes trouble for the whole family.
8. Gang members and drug pushers have to pay lawyers, bail, and they lose whatever job they did have.
9. If a gang member and drug pusher starts using drugs then they are poisoning their body and poisoning their brain.
10. If a girl joins a gang, several things happen. A girl gang member can expect to become a paid or unpaid prostitute. She can expect to have a baby soon. She can expect to get a disease. She can expect to get incurable AIDS. She can expect to spend many years in jail. She can expect to remain poor for most of her life. Boys who join gangs can expect the same things

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The **A**, **B**, **C**'s of Operation Safe Child

- A Abide by the law and attend school every day.
- B Be on time and be righteous.
- C Correct mistakes and climb higher.
- D Do the right thing and do your homework.
- E Eat right and excel by trying for excellence.
- F Flee bad situations and find something good to read.
- G Go straight home and avoid gangs.
- H Have a good attitude and help others.
- I Ignore illegal drugs that are used by idiots.
- J Jump for joy that you are good.
- K Keep your conscience clean and keep promises.
- L Lead in the right direction and look for ways to improve.
- M Make money by studying and working.
- N Never lie, cheat or steal.
- O Obey parents, teachers, and police.
- P Predict paying for wrong a long time.
- Q Quit giving excuses.
- R Respect everyone and read as much as possible.
- S Stay in school until you graduate from college.
- T Try your best and treat everyone fairly.
- U Use good character habits.
- V Value Yourself.

- W Wait for the right time, work hard and watch out for strangers.
- X X-Ray your actions and attitudes.
- Y Yearn to be right.
- Z Zoom high by reading, writing, computing, and studying

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POWER UP

Super Character Habits for Power Kids

Super **Honesty**—Being truthful; not lying, cheating, or stealing

Super **Integrity**—Inner strength from doing the right thing

Super **Courage**—Facing difficulties

Super **Promise Keeping & Punctuality**—Doing what you say and on time

Super **Loyalty & Concern for Others**—Supporting and helping others

Super **Law Abidance**—Obeying the law

Super **Obedience to Parents, Teachers & Police**—Obeying those in authority

Super **Respect & Fairness**—Being polite, kind, and fair

Super **Working for Excellence**—Reading, writing, studying, and computing

Super **Accountability & Responsibility**—Correcting mistakes and being proud of success

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Making Yourself A Millionaire

SAMPLE INSTRUCTION

1. Do the right things now. If you do, you are likely to become a millionaire.
2. Make friends with good people who will not drag you down, but who will help you.
3. Stay in school. Attend school every day. Get into after school activities and sports.
4. Study to make something of yourself.
5. Learn compute skills. Learn a trade.
6. Go to college. College graduates earn \$2,000,000 extra. The more education you get, the more you earn.
7. Get a job and then be a dependable worker.
8. Be on time and work hard.
9. Be honest. Be grateful. Use good character habits.
10. Be a thinking person and be intelligent.
11. Obey the law. Disobeying the law is the fool's road to prison and poverty.
12. Stay away from distractions such as violence, gangs, illegal drugs, alcohol, or early sex.
13. Build community.
14. Create a stable marriage.
15. Be organized.

16. Use technology.
17. Build alliances.
18. Look down the road, see the trends.
19. See that crime and going to prison create poverty.
20. See that early sex creates AIDS and poverty
21. Use direct action to get jobs done now.
22. Stay in school—Go for the best.
23. Do not make excuses. Pursue excellence.
24. Surround yourself with excellence.
25. Focus on the positive. Worship.

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Operation Safe Child Program Resources and Materials



Information and Teaching Materials Regarding

*Stranger Danger,
Gang Facts,
Drug Facts,
How to Become a Millionaire,
Appropriate Interactions with Police,
Crime Scene Investigations,*

*Bullying,
Conflict Resolution,
Anger Management
Character Development,
A, B, C, Guidelines for Students,
Home Alone Safety*

Additional Resources Available:

Character Development Booklets

Anger Management Booklets

Crime Prevention Booklets

Brochures for individual topics

Role Play Scenarios

Scenarios for Team Work and Discussion

Skits

Behavior Record Charts

Markers, Pens, Magnets, Badges

Coloring Books

Power Up Your Life posters, handouts

Super Character Posters

OSC Posters

Crime Prevention Posters

Super Power Character Water Bottles

How to Become a Millionaire Water Bottles

Super Character Balloons

Super Character Bracelets

Word Search Puzzles

Crossword Puzzles

Songs on CD's and Downloadable from the Internet

Videos on DVD's

Certificates

Workbooks

Internet Website

Newspaper Ad Templates

Special Acknowledgements

The Operation Safe Child efforts were inspired by the work of the Maywood Police Department and especially the work of Maywood Police Sergeant James O. Robinson. The Operation Safe Child efforts are dedicated to Deceased Hillside IL Police Lieutenant Jose Montoya who, as a School District #89 School Board Member, was an early supporter of Operation Safe Child and to Deceased Maywood Police Officer Tom Wood who was killed in the line of duty.

Operation Safe Child presents ten 45 minute teaching sessions and culminating parties each semester in each of six Maywood elementary Schools. Operation Safe Child has served approximately 2200 fourth through eighth grade students for the past four years. This is the fifth year of this program. The Operation Safe Child first semester topics include standard police presentations and lessons given by Maywood Police Officers and Operation Safe Child Advisory Members. The Operation Safe Child second semester topics include character development presentations and lessons given by Operation Safe Child Advisory Members.

The Maywood Police Officers giving the lessons have been Maywood Police Chief Tim Curry, Former Police Chief Elvia Williams and Officers David Gude, Wayne Welch, Terence Powell, Patrick Grandberry, Deon Sams, Robert Welch, Dennis Diaz, Weldon Cobos, Yvette Daniel, Sergeant Theodore Yancey, Commander Elijah Willis, and Community Policing Officer Pirsia Allen.

THANK YOU'S

Thanks to the Maywood-Melrose Park-Broadview School District #89 administration including Interim Superintendent Sue Flanagan, Director of Curriculum Dave Ballard, Principals Louise

Farrar, John Boyd, Dr. Bonita Cosby, Annie Lott Jackson, Dr. Diane Weitzman, Karen Petties, and former Superintendents Cynthia Broughton, and Thea Perkins.

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Thanks to the Maywood Police Department and Chief Tim Curry, Former Police Chief Elvia Williams for planning, scheduling, and teaching some of the Operation Safe Child lessons.

Thanks to the Operation Safe Child Advisory Council for advice, teaching, and liaison services for the schools. The members of the Advisory Council are Louise Denton Jones, Gladys Freelon, Doris Courts, Beverline Ivory, Pauline Mauldin, Sylvia Diggs, Cellie Banks, Rev. Marcy Thomas, Shirley Cornelius, Brett Reid, Robert Reid, Johnnie Diggs, and Maywood Community Policing Officer Pirsia Allen.

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Contact us for additional information regarding:

Consultations

Workshops/Seminars

Resource Materials

Operation Safe Child

**The Answer To Preventing Community Gang Crimes
and Equipping Students to Become Productive Adults
with Knowledge About**

Child Safety• Crime Prevention•

and

Character Development•