



PARENT INFORMATION SHEET

What is Day for Daniel?

In December 2003, Daniel Morcombe was tragically abducted while waiting for a bus in Palmwoods, Queensland. In 2005, The Daniel Morcombe Foundation was established by Daniel's parents, Bruce and Denise, in honour of Daniel Morcombe.

The aims of the Foundation are to educate children and young people about how to stay safe in physical and online environments and to support young victims of crime, through initiatives such as 'Day for Daniel'.

How do I talk to my child about Daniel?

Naturally, children may be curious about what happened to Daniel, and why we have a 'Day for Daniel'. It is important children learn about child safety without getting overwhelmed, scared, or upset. 'Day for Daniel' is a day to bring awareness and is an opportunity for teaching children how to stay safe.

In response to questions from your child, it is best to answer in straightforward, simple and developmentally appropriate terms.

You might like to try the following response:

Daniel was a 13-year-old boy who regularly caught a bus. On this particular day, he was waiting to catch a bus but unfortunately the bus broke down. By the time the next bus turned up Daniel was gone. Daniel's situation went from safe to unsafe very quickly.

What happened to Daniel thankfully doesn't happen very often. There are lots of things we can talk about to help you and other children stay safe both in the community and online. We have 'Day for Daniel' because Daniel's family want to help as many children as possible to learn what to do if they ever find themselves in an unsafe situation.

How to talk about personal safety with children

Having conversations about personal safety should not be scary for children. Being calm, open and approachable is the most important thing.

- Discuss with your child who their trusted adults are in their life; who they feel they can talk to if they feel unsafe
- Reinforce basic safety messages / behaviours and ensure children know the phone numbers of people they can call for help or to talk to.
- Practise using stories and scenarios to problem solve how the child might respond. Child safety conversations are not just about strangers / stranger danger.
- Explain it is okay to say 'No' to an adult or child if they are doing something that is not okay or makes the child feel unsafe. Encourage children to listen to the messages that their body sends them, when they feel unsafe.
- Let your child know they will not get into trouble if they tell you about anything that makes them unsafe. If someone has asked them to keep an unsafe secret it is important to tell a trusted adult about this.
- Remind your child that it is always okay to talk to you - no matter what the issue. You care about them and want to help them to stay safe. Child Safety conversations need to happen often – it is more than a one-off conversation.

Where to get help

- If you or your child are at risk of immediate harm, call the police on 000 (or 106 for Text Emergency Relay Service for the hearing or speech impaired).
- **Parentline** Ph: 1800 30 1300 provide free telephone counselling and advice to parents and carers. Resources are available to support parents and carers to understand a wide range of issues related to raising children and young people www.parentline.com.au
- **The Australian Institute of Family Studies** has an up-to-date contact list of relevant state or territory child protection agencies, if you suspect a child has experienced abuse or is at risk of harm www.aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/reporting-abuse-and-neglect
- **The Office of the eSafety Commissioner** has resources to help children, young people, parents and carers stay safe online. www.esafety.gov.au
- **Bravehearts** – Child Protection resources for families. <https://bravehearts.org.au/>
- **Kids Helpline** - 1800 55 1800 provide a free, 24 hour counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25. Resources and webchat are available at <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>